



W. Laddon. inv.

J. G. Scriver. fecit.

*I have seen Tempests, when the Scowling Winds,
(Terrible to behold,) have riv'd the Knotty Oaks,*

Shakespeare.

THE
SHIPWRECK,

A POEM,

By W. FALCONER, *K*

AUTHOR OF THE MARINE DICTIONARY,

A New Edition,

ILLUSTRATED WITH NOTES.

—*Quæque ipse Miserrima,
Et quorum pars Magna fui.*

VIRG. ÆNEA I. ii.

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NO. 1

IN THE FALCONER

OF THE FALCONER



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THE
SHIPWRECK.
CANTO I.

ARGUMENT.

PROPOSAL of the Subject—Invocation—Apology—Allegorical Description of Memory—Appeal to her Assistance—The Story begun—Retrospect of the former Part of the Voyage—The Ship arrives at Candia—Ancient State of that Island—Present State of the adjacent Isles of Greece—The Season of the Year—Character of the Master and his Officers—Story of Palemon and Anna—Evening described—Midnight—The Ship weighs Anchor and departs from the Haven—State of the Weather—Morning—Situation of the neighbouring Shores—Operation of taking the Sun's Azimuth—Description of the Vessel as seen from the Land.

The scene is near the city of Candia ; and the time about four days and a half.

The scene of the Second Canto lies in the sea, between Cape Freschin, in Candia, and the Island of Falconera, which is nearly twelve leagues northward of Cape Spada.—The time is from nine in the morning till one o'clock of the following morning.

WHILE jarring interests wake the world to arms,
And fright the paleful vale with dire alarms ;
While ocean hears vindictive thunder roll
Along his trembling wave, from pole to pole ;
Sick of the scene, where war, with ruthless hand,
Spreads desolation o'er the bleeding land ;

B

62
x

Sick of the tumult, where the trumpet's breath
 Bids ruin smile, and drown the groans of death !
 'Tis mine, retir'd beneath this cavern hoar,
 That stands all lonely on the sea-beat shore,
 Far other themes of deep distress to sing
 Than ever trembled from the vocal string.
 No pomp of battle swells th' exalted strain,
 Nor gleaming arms ring dreadful on the plain :
 But, o'er the scene while pale remembrance weeps,
 Fate with fell triumph, rides upon the deeps.
 Here hostile elements tumultuous rise,
 And lawless floods rebel against the skies ;
 Till hope expires, and peril and dismay
 Wave their black ensigns on the watery way.

Immortal train who guide the maze of song,
 To whom all science, arts and arms belong ;
 Who bid the trumpet of eternal fame
 Exalt the warrior's and the poet's name !
 If e'er with trembling hope I fondly stray'd,
 In life's fair morn beneath your hallow'd shade,
 To hear the sweetly-mournful lute complain,
 And melt the heart with ecstasy of pain ;
 Or listen, while the enchanting voice of love,
 While all Elysium warbled thro' the grove ;
 Oh ! by the hollow blast that moans around,
 That sweeps the mild harp with a plaintive sound ;
 By the long ferge that foams thro' yonder cave,
 Whose vaults remurmur to the roaring wave ;
 With living colours give my verse to glow,
 The sad memorial of a tale of woe !

A scene from dumb oblivion to restore,
 To fame unknown, and new to epic lore !
 Alas ! neglected by the sacred Nine,
 Their suppliant feels no genial ray divine !
 Ah ! will they leave *Pieria's* happy shore,
 To plow the tide where wintry tempests roar ?
 Or shall a youth approach their hallow'd fane,
 Stranger to *Phœbus*, and the tuneful train !
 Far from the muse's academic grove,
 'Twas his the vast and trackless deep to rove.

Alternate change of climates has he known,
 And felt the fierce extremes of either zone :
 Where polar skies congeal th' eternal snow,
 Or equinoctial suns for ever glow.
 Smote by the freezing or the scorching blast,
 ' A ship-boy on the high and giddy mast*.'
 From regions where *Peruvian* billows roar,
 To the bleak coasts of savage *Labrader*,
 From where *Damascus*, pride of *Asian* plains !
 Stoops her proud neck beneath tyrannic chains,
 To where the Isthmus † laved by adverse tides,
Atlantic and *Pacific* seas divides.
 But while he measur'd o'er the painful race,
 In fortune's wild illimitable chace,
 Adversity, companion of his way !
 Still o'er the victim hung with iron sway ;
 Bade new distresses every instant grow,
 Marking each change of place with change of woe.
 In regions where the Almighty's chastening hand
 With livid pestilence afflicts the land ;
 Or where pale famine blasts the hopeful year,
 Parent of want and misery severe !
 Or where, all dreadful in th' embattl'd line,
 The hostile ships in flaming combat join :
 Where the torn vessel wind and waves assail.
 Till o'er her crew distress and death prevail.
 Where'er he wander'd, thus vindictive fate
 Pursu'd his weary steps with lasting hate !
 Rous'd by her mandate, storms of black array
 Winter'd the morn of life's advancing day ;
 Relax'd the sinews of the living lyre,
 And quench'd the kindling spark of vital fire.
 Thus while forgotten, or unknown he woos,
 What hope to win the coy, reluctant Muse !
 Then let not censure, with malignant joy,
 The harvest of his humble hope destroy !
 His verse no laurel wreath attempts to claim,
 Nor sculptur'd brags to tell the poet's name.

* *Shakespeare.*† *Darien.*

If terms uncouth, and jarring phrases, wound
 The softer sense with inharmonious sound,
 Yet here let listening sympathy prevail,
 While conscious truth unfolds her piteous tale !

And lo ! the power that wakes th' eventful song,
 Hastes hither from *Lethean* banks along :
 She sweeps the gloom, and rushing on the fight,
 Spreads o'er the kindling scene propitious light !
 In her right hand an ample roll appears,
 Fraught with long annals of preceding years ;
 With every wise and noble art of man,
 Since first the circling hours their course began :
 Her left a silver wand on high display'd,
 Whose magic touch dispels oblivion's shade.
 Pensive her look ; on radiant wings that glow,
 Like *Juno's* birds, or *Iris'* flaming bow,
 She sails ; and swifter than the course of light
 Directs her rapid intellectual flight.

'The fugitive ideas she restores,
 And calls the wand'ring thought from *Lethe's* shores.
 To things long past a second date she gives,
 And hoary time from her fresh youth receives.
 Congenial sister of immortal fame,
 She shares her power, and Mem'ry is her name.

O first-born daughter of primeval time !
 By whom transmitted down in every clime,
 The deeds of ages long elaps'd are known,
 And blazon'd glories spread from zone to zone ;
 Whose breath dissolves the gloom of mental night,
 And o'er th' obscur'd idea pours the light !
 Whose wing unerring glides thro' time and place,
 And tractless soars the immensity of space !
 Say on what seas, for thou alone canst tell,
 What dire mishap a fated ship befell,
 Affail'd by tempests, girt with hostile shores ?
 Arise ! approach ! unlock thy treasur'd stores !

A ship from *Egypt*, o'er the deep impell'd
 By guiding winds, her course for *Venice* held ;
 Of fam'd *Britannia* were the gallant crew,
 And from that isle her name the vessel drew

The wayward steps of fortune, that delude
Full oft' to ruin, eager they pursu'd,
And dazzled by her visionary glare,
Advanc'd, incautious of each fatal snare ;
Tho' warn'd full oft' the slipp'ry track to shun,
Yet hope, with flatt'ring voice, betray'd them on.
Beguil'd to danger thus, they left behind
The scene of peace, and social joy resign'd.
Long absent they from friends and native home,
The cheerless ocean were inur'd to roam :
Yet Heaven, in pity to severe distress,
Had crown'd each painful voyage with success :
Still, to atone for toils and hazards past,
Restor'd them to maternal plains at last.

Thrice had the sun, to rule the varying year,
Across th' equator roll'd his flaming sphere ;
Since last the vessel spread her ample sail
From *Albion's* coast, obsequious to the gale.
She, o'er the spacious flood, from shore to shore,
Unwearying, wasted her commercial store.
The richest ports of *Afric* she had view'd,
Thence to fair *Italy* her course pursu'd ;
Had left behind *Trinacria's* burning isle,
And visited the margin of the *Nile*.
And now, that winter deepens round the pole,
The circling voyage hastens to its goal ;
They, blind to Fate's inevitable law,
No dark events to blast their hope foresaw ;
But from gay *Venice* soon expect to steer
For *Britain's* coast, and dread no perils near.
A thousand tender thoughts their souls employ,
That fondly dance to scenes of future joy.

Thus time elaps'd, while o'er the pathless tide
Their ship thro' *Grecian* seas the pilots guide.
Occasion call'd to touch at *Candia's* shore,
Which, blest with favouring winds, they soon explore ;
The haven enter, borne before the gale,
Dispatch their commerce, and prepare to sail.

Eternal Powers ! what ruins from afar
Mark the fell track of desolating war.

THE SHIPWRECK.

CANTO I.

Here art and commerce, with auspicious reign,
Once breath'd sweet influence on the happy plain!
While o'er the lawn, with dance and festive song
Young Pleasure led the jocund hours along,
In gay luxuriance *Ceres* too was seen
To crown the vallies with eternal green.
For wealth, for valor, courted and rever'd,
What *Albion* is, fair *Candia* then appear'd.
Ah! who the flight of ages can revoke?
The free-born spirit of her sons is broke;
They bow to *Ottoman's* imperious yoke!
No longer fame the drooping hearts inspire.
For rude oppression quench'd his genial fires.
But still her fields, with golden harvests crown'd,
Supply the barren shores of *Greece* around.
What pale distress afflicts those wretch'd isles!
There hope ne'er dawns, and pleasure never smiles.
The vassal wretch obsequious drags his chain,
And hears his famish'd babes lament in vain.
These eyes have seen the dull reluctant soil
A seventh year scorn the weary lab'rer's toil.
No blooming *Venus*, on the desert shore,
Nor views, with triumph, captive gods adore.
No lovely *Helens* now, with fatal charms,
Call forth th' avenging chiefs of *Greece* to arms.
No fair *Penelopes* inchant the eye,
For whom contending kings are proud to die.
Here sullen beauty sheds a twilight ray,
While sorrow bids her vernal bloom decay,
Those charms, so long renown'd in classic strains
Had dimly shone on *Albion's* happier plains!
Now in the southern hemisphere, the sun
Thro' the bright *Virgin* and the *Scales* had run
And on the *ecliptic* wheel'd his winding way,
Till the fierce *Scorpion* felt his flaming ray.
The ship was moor'd beside the wave-worn strand;
Four days her anchors bite the golden sand;
For sickening vapours lull the air to sleep,
And not a breeze awakes the silent deep.
This, when the autumnal *equinox* is o'er,
And *Phæbus* in the north declines no more,

The watchful mariner, whom Heaven informs,
Oft' deems the prelude of approaching storms.
True to his trust, when sacred duty calls,
No brooding storm the master's soul appals,
Th' advancing season warns him to the main :
A captive, fetter'd to the oar of gain !
His anxious heart, impatient of delay,
Expects the wind, to sail from *Candia's* bay ;
Determin'd, from whatever point they rise,
To trust his fortune to the seas and skies.

Thou living ray of intellectual fire,
Whose voluntary gleam my verse inspire !
Ere yet the deep'ning incidents prevail,
Till rous'd attention feel our plaintive tale.
Record whom, chief among the gallant crew,
Th' unblest pursuit of fortune hither drew ?
Can sons of *Neptune*, gen'rous, brave, and bold,
In pain and hazard toil for fordid gold ?

They can ? for gold too oft', with magic art,
Subdues each nobler impulse of the heart :
This crowns the prosperous villain with applause,
To whom, in vain, sad merit pleads her cause :
This strews with roses life's perplexing road,
And leads the way to pleasure's blest abode ;
With slaughter'd victims fills the weeping plain,
And smooths the furrows of the treacherous main.

O'er the gay vessel, and her daring band,
Experienc'd *Albert* held the chief command ;
Tho' train'd in boisterous elements, his mind
Was yet by soft humanity refin'd.
Each joy of wedded love at home he knew ;
Abroad confest the father of his crew !
Brave, lib'ral, just, the calm, domestic scene
Had o'er his temper breath'd a gay serene,
Him science taught by mystic lore to trace
The planets wheeling in eternal race ;
To mark the ship in floating balance held,
By earth attracted and by seas repell'd ;
Or point her devious track, thro' climes unknown,
That leads to every shore, and every zone.

He saw the moon thro' heaven's blue concave glide.
 And into motion charm th' expanding tide;
 While earth impetuous round her axle rolls,
 Exalts her wat'ry zone, and sink the poles.
 Light and attraction, from her genial source,
 He saw still wand'ring with diminish'd force:
 While on the margin of declining day,
 Night's shadowy cone reluctant melts away.
 Inur'd to peril, with unconquer'd soul,
 The chief beheld tempestuous oceans roll;
 His genius, ever for the event prepar'd,
 Rose with the storm, and all its dangers shar'd.

The second powers and office *Rodmond* bore:
 A hardy son of *England's* further shore!
 Where bleak *Northumbria* pours her savage train
 In fable squadrons o'er the northern main;
 That, with her pitchy entrails stor'd, resort,
 A footy tribe! to fair *Augusta's* port.
 Where'er in ambush lurks the fatal sands,
 They claim the danger; proud of skilful bands!
 For while with darkling course their vessels sweep
 The winding shore, or plow the faithless deep,
 O'er bar * and shelf the wat'ry path they found,
 With dexterous arm; sagacious of the ground!
 Fearless they combat every hostile wind,
 Wheeling in mazy tracks, with course inclin'd.
 Expert to moor, where terrors line the road;
 Or win the anchor from its dark abode:
 But drooping and relax'd in climes afar,
 Tumultuous and undisciplin'd in war.
 Such *Rodmond* was; by learning unrefin'd,
 That oft enlightens, to corrupt the mind.
 Boisterous of manners; train'd in early youth
 To scenes that shame the conscious cheek of truth;
 To scenes that nature's struggling voice control,
 And freeze compassion rising in the soul!

* A bar is known, in hydrography, to be a mass of earth or sand, collected by the surge of the sea, at the entrance of a river or haven, so as to render the navigation difficult, and often dangerous.

Where

Where the grim hell-hounds, prowling round the shore,
With foul intent the stranded bark explore.
Deaf to the voice of woe, her decks they board,
While tardy justice slumbers o'er her sword.
Th' indignant muse, severely taught to feel,
Shrinks from a theme she blushes to reveal !
Too oft' example, arm'd with poisons fell,
Pollutes the shrine where mercy loves to dwell :
Thus *Rodmond*, train'd by this unhallow'd crew,
The sacred, social passions never knew :
Unskil'd to argue ; in dispute yet loud ;
Bold without caution ; without honours proud ;
In art unschool'd, each veteran rule he priz'd,
And all improvements haughtily despis'd :
Yet tho' full oft' to future perils blind,
With skill superior glow'd his daring mind.
'T hro' snares of death the reeling bark to guide,
When midnight shades involve the raging tide.

To *Rodmond* next, in order of command,
Succeeds the youngest of our naval band.
But what avails it to record a name
That courts no rank amongst the sons of fame ?
While yet a stripling, oft' with fond alarms,
His bosom danc'd to nature's boundless charms ;
On him fair science dawn'd in happier hour,
Awakening into bloom young fancy's flow'r ;
But frowning fortune, with untimely blast,
The blossom wither'd, and the dawn o'ercast.
Forlorn of heart, and by severe decree.
Condemn'd reluctant to the faithless sea ;
With long farewell he left the laurel grove,
Where science and the tuneful sisters rove.
Hither he wander'd, anxious to explore
Antiquities of nations, now no more ;
To penetrate each distant realm unknown,
And range excursive o'er th' untravel'd zone.
In vain ! for rude adversity's command,
Still on the margin of each famous land,
With unrelenting ire his steps oppos'd,
And every gate of hope against him clos'd.

Permit my verse, ye blest *Pierian* train,
 To call *Arion* this ill-fated swain !
 For, like that bard unhappy, on his head
 Malignant stars their hostile influence shed.
 Both, in lamenting numbers, o'er the deep,
 With conscious anguish taught the harp to weep ;
 And both the raging surge in safety bore
 Amid destruction panting to the shore.
 This last our tragic story from the wave
 Of dark oblivion happy yet may save ;
 With genuine sympathy may yet complain,
 While sad remembrance bleeds at every vein.

Such were the pilots ; tutor'd to divine
 Th' untravel'd course by geometric line :
 Train'd to command, and range the various sail,
 Whose various force conforms to every gale.
 Charg'd with the commerce, hither also came
 A gallant youth, *Palemon* was his name :
 A father's stern resentment doom'd to prove,
 He came, the victim of unhappy love !
 His heart for *Albert's* beauteous daughter bled ;
 For her a secret flame his bosom fed.
 Nor let the wretched slaves of folly scorn
 This genuine passion ; nature's eldest born !
 'Twas his with lasting anguish to complain,
 While blooming *Anna* mourn'd the cause in vain.

Graceful of form, by nature taught to please,
 Of power to melt the female breast with ease,
 To her *Palemon* told his tender tale,
 Soft as the voice of summer's evening gale.
 O'erjoy'd, he saw her lovely eyes relent ;
 The blushing maiden smil'd with sweet consent.
 Oft' in the mazes of a neighbouring grove,
 Unheard, they breath'd alternate vows of love :
 By fond society their passion grew,
 Like the young blossom fed with vernal dew.
 In evil hour th' officious tongue of fame
 Betray'd the secret of their mutual flame.
 With grief and anger struggling in his breast,
Palemon's father heard the tale confess.

Long had he listen'd with suspicious ear,
 And learnt, sagacious, this event to fear.
 Too well, fair youth! thy liberal heart he knew;
 A heart to nature's warm impressions true!
 Full oft' his wisdom strove, with fruitless toil,
 With avarice to pollute that generous foil,
 That foil, impregnated with nobler seed,
 Refus'd the culture of so rank a weed.
 Elate with wealth, in active commerce won,
 And basking in the smile of fortune's sun,
 With scorn the parent ey'd the lowly shade,
 That veil'd the beauties of this charming maid.
 Indignant he rebuk'd the enamour'd boy,
 The flattering promise of his future joy!
 He sooth'd and menac'd, anxious to reclaim
 This hopeless passion, or divert its aim:
 Oft' led the youth where circling joys delight
 The ravish'd sense, or beauty charms the sight.
 With all her pow'rs enchanting music fail'd,
 And pleasure's syren voice no more prevail'd.
 The merchant kindling then with proud disdain,
 In look and voice assum'd an harsher strain.
 In absence now his only hope remain'd;
 And such the stern decree his will ordain'd.
 Deep anguish, while *Palemon* heard his doom,
 Drew o'er his lovely face a saddening gloom.
 In vain with bitter sorrow he repin'd
 No tender pity touch'd that sordid mind;
 To thee, brave *Albert* was the charge consign'd.
 The stately ship, forsaking *England's* shore,
 To regions far remote *Palemon* bore.
 Incapable of change, th' unhappy youth
 Still lov'd fair *Anna* with eternal truth:
 From clime to clime an exile doom'd to roam,
 His heart still panted for its secret home.
 The moon had circled twice her wayward zone,
 To him since young *Arion* first was known;
 Who, wandering here thro' many a scene renown'd.
 In *Alexandria's* port the vessel found;
 Where anxious to review his native shore,
 He on the roaring wave embark'd once more.

Of't, by pale Cynthia's melancholy light,
 With him Palemon kept the watch of night;
 In whose sad bosom many a sigh suppress'd,
 Some painful secret of the soul confess'd.
 Perhaps Arion soon the cause divin'd,
 Tho' shunning still to probe a wounded mind:
 He felt the chastity of silent woe,
 Tho' glad the balm of comfort to bestow;
 He, with Palemon, oft' recounted o'er
 The tales of hapless love in ancient lore
 Recall'd to memory of th' adjacent shore.
 The scene thus present, and its story known,
 The lover sigh'd for sorrows not his own.
 Thus, tho' a recent date their friendship bore,
 Soon the ripe metal own'd the quick'ning ore:
 For in one tide their passion seem'd to roll,
 By kindred-age, and sympathy of soul.

These o'er th' inferior naval train preside,
 The course determine, or the commerce guide:
 O'er all the rest, an undistinguish'd crew!
 Her wing of deepest shade oblivion drew.

A sullen languor still the skies oppress,
 And held th' unwilling ship in strong arrest.
 High in his chariot glow'd the lamp of day,
 O'er Ida flaming with meridian ray.
 Relax'd from toil the sailors range the shore,
 Where famine, war, and storm are felt no more:
 The hour to social pleasure they resign,
 And black remembrance drown in gen'rous wine.
 On deck, beneath the shading canvas spread,
 Rodmond a rueful tale of wonders read,
 Of dragons roaring on the enchanted coast,
 The hideous goblin, and the yelling ghost.
 But with Arion, from the sultry heat
 Of noon, Palemon sought a cool retreat.
 And lo! the shore with mournful prospects crown'd *:
 The rampart tore with many a fatal wound:

* The intelligent reader will readily discover, that these remarks allude to the ever-memorable siege of Candia, which

The ruin'd bulwark tott'ring o'er the strand ;
 Bewail the stroke of war's tremendous hand.
 What scenes of war thts hapless ile o'erspread !
 Where late thrice fifty thousand warriors bled.
 Full twice twelve summers were yon tow'rs assail'd,
 'Till barbarous *Ottoman* at last prevail'd :
 While thund'ring mines the lovely plains o'erturn'd,
 While heroes fell and domes and temples burn'd.

But now before them happier scenes arise !

Elysian vales salute their ravish'd eyes :
 Olive and cedar form'd a grateful shade,
 Where light with gay romantic error stray'd.
 The myrtles here with fond caresses twine ;
 There, rich with nectar, melts the pregnant vine.
 And lo ! the stream, renown'd in classic song,
 Sad *Lethe*, glides the silent vale along.
 On mossy banks, beneath the citron grove,
 The youthful wanderers found a wild alcove :
 Soft o'er the fairy region languor stole,
 And with sweet melancholy charm'd the soul.
 Here first *Palemon*, while his pensive mind
 For consolation on his friend reclin'd,
 In pity's bleeding bosom pour'd the stream
 Of love's soft anguish, and of grief supreme.—
 Too true thy words ! by sweet remembrance taught,
 My heart in secret bleeds with tender thought ;
 In vain it courts the solitary shade,
 By every action, every look betray'd !—
 The pride of generous woe disdains appeal
 To hearts that unrelenting frosts congeal :
 Yet sure, if right *Palemon* can divine,
 The sense of gentle pity dwells in thine.
 Yes ! all his cares thy sympathy shall know,
 And prove the kind companion of his woe.

Albert thou know'st with skill and science grac'd,
 In humble station tho' by fortune plac'd ;

was taken from the Venetians by the Turks, in 1669 ; being then considered as impregnable, and esteemed the most formidable fortress in the universe.

Yet, never seamen more serenely brave
 Led Britain's conquering squadrons o'er the wave.
 Where full in view *Augusta's* spires are seen,
 With flowery lawns, and waving woods between,
 A peaceful dwelling stands in modest pride,
 Where Thames, slow-winding, rolls his ample tide.
 There live the hope and pleasure of his life,
 A pious daughter, with a faithful wife.
 For his return, with fond officious care,
 Still every grateful object these prepare;
 Whatever can allure the smell or sight,
 Or wake the drooping spirits to delight.

This blooming maid in virtue's path to guide,
 Her anxious parents all their cares apply'd
 Her spotless soul, where soft compassion reign'd,
 No vice untun'd, no sickening folly stained.
 Not fairer grows the lilly of the vale,
 Whose bosom opens to the vernal gale:
 Her eyes, unconscious of their fatal charms,
 Thrill'd every heart with exquisite alarms.
 Her face, in beauty's sweet attraction drest,
 The smile of maiden-innocence express'd;
 While health, that rises with the new-born day,
 Breath'd o'er her cheek the softest blush of May.
 Still in her look complacence smil'd serene;
 She mov'd the charmer of the rural scene.

'Twas at that season when the fields resume
 Their loveliest hues, array'd in vernal bloom;
 Yon' ship, rich-freighted from the Italian shore,
 To Thame's fair banks her costly tribute bore:
 While thus my father saw his ample hoard,
 From this return, with recent treasures stor'd;
 Me, with affairs of commerce charg'd, he sent
 To *Albert's* humble mansion; soon I went,
 Too soon, alas; unconscious of th' event—
 There, struck with sweet surprize and silent awe,
 The gentle mistress of my hopes I saw:
 There wounded first by love's resistless arms,
 My glowing bosom throbb'd with strange alarms.

My ever charming *Anna* ! who alone
Can all the frowns of cruel fate atone ;
Oh ! while all conscious mem'ry holds her power,
Can I forget that sweetly painful hour,
When from those eyes, with lovely lightning fraught,
My fluttering spirits first the infection caught ;
When, as I gaz'd, my faltering tongue betray'd
The heart's quick tumults, or refus'd its aid ;
While the dim light my ravish'd eyes forsook,
And every limb unstrung with terror shook !
With all her powers dissenting reason strove
To tame at first the kindling flame of love !
She strove in vain ! subdu'd by charms divine,
My soul a victim fell at beauty's shrine.
Off' from the din of bustling life I stray'd,
In happier scenes to see my lovely maid.
Full oft', where *Thames* his wandering current leads,
We rov'd at evening hour thro' flow'ry meads.
There, while my heart's soft anguish I reveal'd,
To her with tender sighs my heart appeal'd.
While the sweet nymph my tender tale believ'd,
Her snowy breast with secret tumult heav'd :
For, train'd in rural scenes from earliest youth,
Nature was her's, and innocence and truth.
She never knew the city damsel's art,
Whose frothy pertness charms the vacant heart !—
My suit prevail'd ; for love inform'd my tongue,
And on his votary's lips persuasion hung.
Her eyes with conscious sympathy withdrew,
And o'er her cheek the rosy current flew.—
Thrice happy hours ! where, with no dark allay,
Life's fairest sunshine gilds the vernal day !
For here the sigh that soft affection heaves,
From stings of sharper woe the soul relieves.
Elysian scenes, too happy long to last !—
Too soon a storm the smiling dawn o'ercast !
Too soon some demon to my father bore
The tidings that his heart with anguish tore.—
My pride to kindle, with dissuasive voice,
Awhile he labour'd to degrade my choice ;

Then, in the whirling wave of pleasure, fought
 From its lov'd object to divert my thought.
 With equal hope he might attempt to bind,
 In chains of adamant, the lawless wind :
 For love had aim'd the fatal shaft too sure ;
 Hope fed the wound, and absence knew no cure.
 With alienated look, each art he saw
 Still baffled by superior nature's law.
 His anxious mind on various schemes revolv'd,
 At last on cruel exile he resolv'd.
 The rigorous doom was fix'd ! alas ! how vain
 To him of tender anguish to complain !
 His soul, that never love's sweet influence felt,
 By social sympathy could never melt,
 With stern command to *Albert's* charge he gave,
 To waft *Palemon* o'er the distant wave.

The ship was laden, and prepared to sail,
 And only waited now the leading gale.
 'Twas our's in that sad period first to prove
 The heart-felt torments of despairing love :
 Th' impatient wish that never feels repose ;
 Desire that with perpetual current flows ;
 The fluctuating pangs of hope and fear ;
 Joys distant still, and sorrows ever near !
 Thus, while the pangs of thought severer grew,
 The western breezes inauspicious blew,
 Hastening the moment of our last adieu.
 The vessel parted on the falling tide ;
 Yet time one sacred hour to love supply'd,
 The night was silent, and, advancing fast,
 The moon o'er *Thames* her silver mantle cast.
 Impatient hope the midnight path explor'd,
 And led me to the nymph my soul ador'd.
 Soon her quick footsteps struck my list'ning ear ;
 She came confest ! the lovely maid drew near !
 But ah ! what force of language can impart
 Th' impetuous joy that glow'd in either heart !
 O ! ye, whose melting hearts are form'd to prove
 The trembling ecstasies of genuine love !

When, with delicious agony, the thought
Is to the verge of high delirium wrought;
Your secret sympathy alone can tell
What raptures then the throbbing bosom swell;
O'er all the nerves what tender tumults roll,
While love with sweet enchantment melts the soul!

In transport lost, by trembling hope impress'd,
The blushing virgin sunk upon my breast;
While her's congenial beat with fond alarms;
Dissolving softness! paradise of charms;
Flash'd from our eyes, in warm transfusion flew
Our blending spirits, that each other drew!
O bliss supreme! where virtues self can melt
With joys that guilty pleasure never felt!
Form'd to refine the thought with chaste desire,
And kindle sweet affection's purest fire!
Ah! wherefore should my hopeless love, she cries,
While sorrow burst with interrupting sighs,
For ever destin'd to lament in vain,
Such flattering fond ideas entertain?
My heart through scenes of fair illusion stray'd
To joys decreed for some superior maid,
'Tis mine to feel the sharpest stings of grief,
Where never gentle hope affords relief.
Go then, dear youth! thy fathers rage atone?
And let this tortur'd bosom beat alone!
The hovering anger yet thou may'st appease;
Go then, dear youth! nor tempt the faithless seas!
Find out some happier daughter of the town,
With fortune's fairer joys thy love to crown;
Where smiling o'er thee with indulgent ray,
Prosperity shall hail each new-born day.
Too well thou know'st good *Albert's* niggard fate,
Ill fitted to sustain thy father's hate;
Go then, I charge thee, by the generous love,
That fatal to my father thus may prove!
On me alone let dark affliction fall!
Whose heart for thee will gladly suffer all.
Then haste thee hence, *Palemon*, e'er too late,
Nor rashly hope to brave opposing fate!

She ceas'd ; while anguish in her angel-face
 O'er all her beauties shew'd celestial grace.
 Not *Helen*, in her bridal charms array'd,
 Was half so lovely as this gentle maid.
 O foul of all my wishes ! I reply'd,
 Can that soft fabric stem affliction's tide !
 Canst thou, fair emblem of exalted truth !
 To sorrow doom the summer of thy youth ;
 And I, perfidious ! all that sweetness see
 Consign'd to lasting misery for me ?
 Sooner this moment may th' eternal doom
Palemon in the silent earth entomb.
 Attest thou moon, fair regent of the night !
 Whose lustre sickens at this mournful sight ;
 By all the pangs divided lovers feel,
 That sweet possession only knows to heal !
 By all the horrors brooding o'er the deep !
 Where fate and ruin sad dominion keep ;
 Tho' tyrant duty o'er me threat'ning stands,
 And claims obedience to her stern commands ;
 Should fortune cruel or auspicious prove,
 Her smile or frown shall never change my love !
 My heart, that now must every joy resign,
 Incapable of change, is only thine !—
 O cease to weep ! this storm will yet decay,
 And these sad clouds of sorrow melt away.
 While thro' the rugged path of life we go,
 All mortals taste the bitter draught of woe,
 The fam'd and great decreed to equal pain,
 Full oft' in splendid wretchedness complain.
 For this prosperity, with brighter ray,
 In smiling contrasts gilds our vital day.
 Thou too, sweet maid, e'er twice ten moons are o'er, }
 Shalt hail *Palemon* to his native shore, }
 Where never interest shall divide us more. }
 Her struggling soul, o'erwhelm'd with tender grief,
 Now found an interval of short relief ;
 So melts the surface of the frozen stream,
 Beneath the wintry sun's departing beam.
 With warning haste the shades of night withdrew,
 And gave the signal of a sad adieu.

As on my neck th' afflicted maiden hung,
 A thousand racking doubts her spirits wrung.
 She wept the terrors of the fearful wave,
 Too oft' alas! the wandering lover's grave!
 With soft persuasion I dispell'd her fear,
 And from her cheek beguil'd the falling tear.
 While dying fondness languish'd in her eyes,
 She pour'd her soul to Heaven in suppliant sighs—
 Look down with pity, oh, ye powers above,
 Who hear the sad complaints of bleeding love!
 Ye, who the secret laws of fate explore,
 Alone can tell if he returns no more:
 Or if the hour of future joy remain,
 Long-wish'd atonement of long-suffer'd pain!
 Bid every guardian minister attend,
 And from all ill the much lov'd youth defend!

With grief o'erwhelm'd we parted twice in vain,
 And, urg'd by strong attraction met again.
 At last, by cruel fortune torn apart,
 While tender passion stream'd in either heart;
 Our eyes transfix'd with agonizing look,
 One sad farewell, one last embrace we took.
 Forlorn of hope the lovely maid I left,
 Pensive and pale, of every joy bereft.
 She to her silent couch retir'd to weep,
 While her sad swain embark'd upon the deep.

His tale thus clos'd, from sympathy of grief,
Palemon's bosom felt a sweet relief.
 The hapless bird, thus ravish'd from the skies,
 Where all forlorn his lov'd companion flies,
 In secret long bewails his cruel fate,
 With fond remembrance of his winged mate:
 Till grown familiar with a foreign train,
 Composed at length, his sadly-warbling strain
 In sweet oblivion charms the sense of pain.

Ye tender maids, in whose pathetic souls
 Compassion's sacred stream impetuous rolls;
 Whose warm affections exquisitely feel
 The secret wound you tremble to reveal!
 Ah! may no wanderer of the faithless main
 Pour thro' your breast the soft delicious bane!

May never fatal tenderneſs approve
The fond effuſions of their ardent love.
O! warn'd by friendſhip's counſel, learn to ſhun
The fatal paths where thouſands are undone!

Now as the youths, returning o'er the plain,
Approach'd the lonely margin of the main,
Fiſt, with attention rouz'd, *Arion* ey'd
The graceful lover, form'd in nature's pride.
His frame the happieſt ſymmetry diſplay'd;
And locks of waving gold his neck array'd,
In every look the Paphian graces ſhine,
Soft breathing o'er his cheek their bloom divine.
With lighten'd heart he ſmil'd ſerenely gay,
Like young *Adonis*, or the ſon of *May*.
Not *Cytherea* from a fairer ſwain,
Receiv'd her apple on the *Trojan* plain!

The ſun's bright orb declining, all ſerene,
Now glanc'd obliquely o'er the woodland ſcene,
Creation ſmiles around, on every ſpray
The warbling birds exalt their evening lay.
Blithe ſkipping o'er yon hill the fleecy train
Join the deep chorus of the lowing plain:
The golden lime and orange there were ſeen,
On fragrant branches of perpetual green.
The crystal ſtreams that velvet meadows lave,
To the green ocean roll with chiding wave.
The glaſſy ocean huſh'd forgets to roar,
But trembling murmurs on the ſandy ſhore:
And lo! his ſurface, lovely to behold,
Glow in the weſt, a ſea of lively gold!
While all above, a thouſand liveries gay,
The ſkies with pomp ineffable array.
Arabian ſweets perfume the happy plains:
Above, beneath, around, enchantment reigns!
While yet the ſhades, on time's eternal ſcale,
With long vibration deepens o'er the vale:
While yet the ſongſters of the vocal grove
With dying numbers tune the ſoul to love;
With joyful eyes th' attentive maſter ſees
Th' auſpicious omens of an eaſtern breeze.

Now radiant *Hesper* leads the starry train,
 And night flow draws her veil o'er land and main.
 Round the charg'd bowl the sailors form a ring,
 By turns recount the wond'rous tale, or sing,
 As love or battle, hardships of the main,
 Or genial wine, awake their homely strain.
 Then some the watch of night alternate keep,
 The rest lie buried in oblivious sleep.

Deep midnight now involves the livid skies,
 While infant breezes from the shore arise.
 The waning moon, behind a watery shroud,
 Pale glimmer'd o'er the long protracted cloud.
 A mighty ring around her silver throne,
 With parting meteors cross'd, portentous shone.
 This in the troubled sky full oft' prevails;
 Oft' deem'd a signal of tempestuous gales.—
 While young *Arion* sleeps, before his sight
 Tumultuous swims the visions of the night.
 Now blooming *Anna*, with her happy swain,
 Approach'd the happy *Hymeneal* fane:
 Anon tremendous lightnings flash between,
 And funeral pomp and weeping loves are seen:
 Now with *Palemon* up a rocky steep,
 Whose summit tremble o'er the rocky deep,
 With painful step he climb'd: while far above
 Sweet *Anna* charm'd him with the voice of love.
 Then sudden from the slippery height they fell,
 While dreadful yawn'd beneath the jaws of hell.—
 Amid this fearful trance, a thundering sound
 He hears—and thrice the hollow decks rebound.
 Upstarting from his couch, on deck he sprung;
 Thrice with shrill note the boatswain's whistle rung.
All hands unmoor! proclaims a boisterous cry:
All hands unmoor! the cavern'd rocks reply!
 Rous'd from repose, aloft the sailors swarm,
 And with their levers soon the windlass arm*.

* *The windlass is a sort of large roller, used to wind in the cable, or heave up the anchor. It is turned about vertically by a number of long bars or levers, in which operation it is prevented from recoiling by the pauls.*

The order given, up-springing with a bound,
 They lodge the bars, and wheel their engines round: }
 At every turn the clanging pauls resound.
 Uptorn reluctant from its oozy cave,
 The ponderous anchor rises o'er the wave.
 Along their slippery masts the yards ascend,
 And high in air the canvas wings extend:
 Redoubling cords the lofty canvas guide,
 And thro' inextricable mazes glide.
 The lunar rays with long reflection gleam,
 To light the vessel o'er the silver stream:
 Along the glassy plane serene she glides,
 While azure radiance trembles on her sides.
 From east to north the transient breezes play,
 And in the Egyptian quarter soon decay.
 A calm ensues; they dread th' adjacent shore;
 The boats with rowers arm'd are sent before:
 With cordage fasten'd to the lofty prow,
 Aloof to sea the stately ship they tow*.
 The nervous crew their sweeping oars extend,
 And pealing shouts the shore of *Candia* rend.
 Success attends their skill; the danger's o'er,
 The port is doubled and beheld no more.

Now morn, her lamp pale glimmering on the sight,
 Scatter'd before her van reluctant night.
 She comes not in refulgent pomp array'd,
 But sternly frowning wrapt in fullen shade.
 Above incumbent vapours, *Ida*' height,
 Tremendous rock! emerges on the sight.
 North-east the guardian isle of *Scandia* lies,
 And westward *Freschin's* woody cape arise.

With winning postures now the wanton sails
 Spread all their snares to catch the wanton gales,
 The swelling stud-sails † now their wings extend,
 Then stay-sails side-long to the breeze ascend.

* *Towing is the operation of drawing a ship forwards, by means of ropes, extending from her fore-part, to one or more of the boats rowing before her.*

† *Studding-sails are long, narrow sails, which are only used*

While all to court the wandering breeze are plac'd;
With yards now thwarting, now obliquely brac'd.

The dim horizon lowering vapours shroud,
And blot the sun, yet struggling in the cloud:
Thro' the wide atmosphere, condens'd with haze,
His glaring orb emits a sanguine blaze.
The pilots now their rules of art apply,
The mystic needle's devious aim to try.
The compass plac'd to catch the rising ray*,
The quadrants shadow studious they survey!
Along the arch the gradual index slides,
While Phœbus down the vertic circle glides.
Now, seen on ocean's utmost verge to swim,
He sweeps it vibrant with his nether limb.
Their sage experience thus explores the height
And polar distance of the source of light:
Then through the chiliads triple maze, they trace
Th' analogy that proves the magnet's place.
The wayward steel, to truth thus reconciled,
No more th' attentive pilots eye beguil'd.

The natives, while the ship departs the land,
Ashore with admiration gazing stand.
Majestically slow, before the breeze,
In silent pomp she marches on the seas.
Her milk-white bottom cast a softer gleam,
While trembling thro' the green translucent stream.
The wales, that close above in contrast shone,†
Clasp the long fabrick with a jetty zone.

used in fine weather and fair winds, on the outside of the larger square-sails. Stay-sails are three-cornered sails, which are hoisted up on the stays, when the wind crosses the ship's course either directly or obliquely.

* The operation of taking the sun's azimuth, in order to discover the eastern or western variation of the magnetical needle.

† The wales here alluded to, are an assemblage of strong planks which envelope the lower part of the ship's side, where-in they are broader and thicker than the rest, and appear somewhat like a range of hoops which separates the bottom from the upper works.

Britannia, riding awful on the prow,
 Gaz'd o'er the vassal-wave that rolled below :
 Where'er she mov'd the vassal waves were seen
 To yield obsequious and confess their queen.
 Th' imperial trident grac'd her dexter hand,
 Of power to rule the surge, like Moses' wand,
 Th' eternal empire of the main to keep,
 And guide her squadrons o'er the trembling deep.
 Her left propitious bore a mystic shield,
 Around whose margin rolls the wat'ry field.
 There her bold genius, in his floating car,
 O'er the wild billows hurls the storm of war—
 And lo ! the beasts that oft' with jealous rage
 In bloody combat met, from age to age,
 Fam'd into union, yok'd in friendship's chain,
 Draw his proud chariot round the vanquish'd main.
 From the broad margin to the center grew
 Shelves, rocks, and whirlpools, hideous to the view !
 Th' immortal shield from *Neptune* she receiv'd,
 When first her head above the waters heav'd.
 Loose floated o'er her limbs an azure vest ;
 A figur'd scutcheon glitter'd on her breast :
 There, from one parent-soil, for ever young,
 The blooming rose and hardy thistle sprung.
 Around her head an oaken wreath was seen,
 Inwove with laurels of unfading green.
 Such was the sculptur'd prow—from van to rear,
 Th' artillery frown'd, a black tremendous tier !
 Embalm'd with orient gum, above the wave,
 The swelling sides a yellow radiance gave.
 On the broad stern a pencil warm and bold,
 That never fertile rules of art controul'd,
 An allegoric tale on high portray'd,
 There a young hero ; here a royal maid.
 Fair *England's* genius, in the youth express'd,
 Her ancient foe, but now her friend, confess'd,
 The warlike nymph with fond regard survey'd :
 No more his hostile frown her heart dismay'd
 His look, that once shot terror from afar,
 Like young *Alcides*, or the god of war,

Serene as summer's evening skies she saw;
 Serene yet firm; tho' mild, impressing awe.
 His nervous arm, inur'd to toils severe,
 Brandish'd th' unconquer'd Caledonian spear.
 The dreadful faulchion of the hills she wore,
 Sung to the harp in many a tale of yore,
 That oft her rivers dy'd with hostile gore,
 Blue was her rocky shield; her piercing eye
 Flash'd, like the meteors of her native sky.
 Her crest, high plum'd, was rough with many a scar,
 And o'er her helmet gleam'd the northern star,
 The warrior youth appear'd of noble frame;
 The hardy offspring of some Runic dame.
 Loose o'er his shoulders hung the slacken'd bow,
 Renown'd in song, the terror of the foe!
 The sword, that oft' the barbarous North defy'd,
 The scourge of tyrants! glitter'd by his side.
 Clad in refulgent arms, in battle won,
 The *George* imblazon'd on his corselet shone.
 Fast by his side was seen a golden lyre,
 Pregnant with numbers of eternal fire;
 Whose strings unlock the witches' midnight spell,
 Or waft rapt fancy through the gulphs of hell—
 Struck with contagion, kindling Fancy hears
 The songs of heaven! the music of the spheres!
 Borne on *Newtonian* wing thro' air she flies,
 Where other suns to other systems rise!—
 These front the scene conspicuous—over head
 Albion's proud oak his filial branches spread:
 While on the sea-beat shore obsequious stood—
 Beneath their feet, the father of the flood—
 Here, the bold native of her cliffs above,
 Perch'd by the martial maid the bird of *Jove*,
 There on the watch, sagacious of his prey,
 With eyes of fire, an *English* mastiff lay.
 Yonder fair Commerce stretch'd her winged sail:
 Here frown'd the god that wakes the living gale—
 High o'er the poop, the flattering winds unfurl'd
 Th' imperial flag that rules the wat'ry world.

Deep-blushing armors all the tops invest,
 And warlike trophies either quarter dress'd:
 Then tow'd the masts; the canvas swell'd on high;
 And waving streamers floated in the sky.
 Thus the rich vessel moves in trim array,
 Like some fair virgin on her bridal day.
 Thus, like a swan she cleaves the wat'ry plain;
 The pride and wonder of the Ægean main!

THE
 SHIPWRECK.

CANTO II.

ARGUMENT.

REFLECTION on leaving the land--The gale continues—A water spout—Beauty of a dying dolphin—The ship's progress along the shore—Wind strengthens—The sails reduced—A shoal of porpoises—Last appearance of Cape Spado—Sea arises—A squall—The sails further diminished—Mainsail split—Ship bears away before the wind—Again hauls upon the wind—Another mainsail fitted to the yard—The gale still encreases—Topsails furled—Top-gallant yards sent down—Sea enlarges—Sun set—Courses reefed—Four seamen lost off the lee main-yard arm—Anxiety of the pilots from their dangerous situation—Resolute behaviour of the sailors—The ship labours in great distress—The artillery thrown overboard—Dismal appearance of the weather—Very high and dangerous sea—Severe fatigue of the crew—Consultation and resolution of the officers—Speech and advice of Albert to the crew—Necessary disposition to vere before the wind—Disappointment in the proposed effect—New dispositions equally unsuccessful—The mizen mast cut away.

A DIEU, ye pleasures of the rural scene,
 Where peace and calm contentment dwell serene!

To me in vain, on earth's prolific soil,
 With summer crown'd the *Elysian* vallies smile !
 To me those happier scenes no joy impart,
 But tantalize with hope my aching heart.
 For these, alas ! reluctant I forego,
 To visit storms and elements of woe !
 Ye tempests o'er my head congenial roll,
 To suit the mournful music of my soul !
 In black progression, lo ! they hover near ;
 Hail social horrors, like my fate severe !
 Old ocean hail, beneath whose azure zone
 The secret deep lies unexplor'd, unknown.
 Approach, ye brave companions of the sea.
 And fearless view this awful scene with me !
 Ye native guardians of your country's laws !
 Ye bold assertors of her sacred cause !
 The *Muse* invites you ; judge if she depart,
 Unequal, from the precepts of your art,
 In practice train'd, and conscious of her power,
 Her steps intrepid meet the trying hour.

O'er the smooth bosom of the faithless tides,
 Propell'd by gentle gales, the vessel glides.
 Rodmond exulting felt th' auspicious wind,
 And by a mystic charm its aim confin'd.—
 The thoughts of home, that o'er his fancy roll,
 With trembling joy dilate *Palemon's* soul :
 Hope lifts his heart, before whose vivid ray
 Distress recedes, and danger melts away.
 Already *Britain's* parents-cliffs arise,
 And in idea greet his longing eyes !
 Each amorous sailor too, with heart elate,
 Dwells on the beauties of his gentle mate.
 Even they th' impressivè dart of love can feel,
 Whose stubborn souls are sheath'd in triple-steel.
 Nor less o'erjoy'd, perhaps with equal truth,
 Each faithful maid expects th' approaching youth ;
 In distant bosoms equal ardors glow,
 And mutual passions mutual joy bestow.—
 Tall *Ida's* summit now more distant grew,
 And *Jove's* high hill was rising on the view :

When from the left approaching, they descry
A liquid column towering shoot on high.
The foaming base an angry whirlwind sweeps,
Where curling billows rouse the fearful deeps.
Still round and round the fluid vortex flies,
Scattering dun night and horror thro' the skies.
The swift volution and th' enormous train
Let fages vers'd in nature's lore explain!
The horrid apparition still draws nigh,
And white with foam the whirling surges fly!
The guns were prim'd; the vessel northward veers
'Till her black battery on the column bears.
The nitre fir'd; and while the dreadful sound,
Convulsive, shook the slumbering air around,
The wat'ry column, trembling to the sky,
Burst down a dreadful deluge from on high!
Th' affrighted surge, recoiling as it fell,
Rolling in hills disclos'd th' abyfs of hell.
But soon, this transient undulation o'er,
The sea felt less the whirlwind's rage no more,
While gentle and cool the increasing breezes veer,
Dark clouds incubent on their wings appear.
In front they view the consecrated grove
Of cypress, sacred once to *Cretan Jove*,
The thirsty canvas, all around supplied,
Still drinks unquench'd the full aerial tide.
And now, approaching near the lofty stern,
A shoal of sportive dolphins they discern.
From burnish'd scales they beam refulgent rays,
'Till all the glowing ocean seems to blaze.
Soon to the sport of death the crew repair,
Dart the long lance, or spread the baited snare.
One in redoubling mazes wheels along,
And glides, unhappy! near the triple prong.
Rodmond unerring o'er his head suspends
The barbed steel, and every turn attends;
Unerring aim'd, the missile weapon flew,
And, plunging, struck the fated victim thro'
Th' upturning points his ponderous bulk sustain:
On deck he struggles with convulsive pain.

But while his heart the fatal javelin thrills,
 And flitting life escapes in sanguine rills,
 What radiant changes strike th' astonish'd sight !
 What glowing hues of mingled shade and light !
 Not equal beauties gild the lucid west,
 With parting beams all o'er profusely drest.
 Not lovelier colours paint the vernal dawn,
 When orient dew impearl th' enamel'd lawn,
 Than from his sides in bright suffusion flow,
 That now with gold empyreal seem to glow ;
 Now in pellucid sapphires meet the view ;
 And emulate the soft celestial hue ;
 Now beam a flaming crimson on the eye ;
 And now assume the purple's deeper dye.
 But here description clouds each shining ray ;
 What terms of art can nature's power's display ?
 Now, while on high the freshning gale she feels,
 The ship beneath her lofty pressure reels.
 The auxiliar sails that court a gentle breeze,
 From their high stations sink by slow degrees.
 The watchful ruler of the helm no more,
 With fix'd attention, eyes th' adjacent shore ;
 But by the oracle of truth below,
 The wond'rous magnet, guides the wayward prow.
 The wind, that still the impressive canvas swell'd,
 Swift and more swift the yielding bark impell'd.
 Impatient thus she glides along the coast,
 Till far behind the hill of *Jove* is lost :
 And, while aloof from *Retimo* she steers,
Malacha's foreland fall in front appears.
 Wide o'er yon isthmus stands the cypress-grove
 That once enclos'd the hallow'd fane of *Jove*.
 Here too, memorial of his name ! is found
 A tomb, in marble ruins on the ground.
 This gloomy tyrant, whose triumphant yoke
 The trembling states around to slavery broke,
 Thro' *Greece*, for murder, rape, and incest known,
 The Muses rais'd to high *Olympus'* throne.—
 For oft, alas ! their venal strains adorn
 The Prince, whom blushing virtue holds in scorn.

Still *Rome* and *Greece* record his endless fame;
 And hence yon' mountain yet retains his name.
 But see! in confluence born before the blast,
 Clouds roll'd on clouds the dusky noon o'ercaft;
 The black'ning ocean curls; the winds arise;
 And the dark scud in swift succession flies*.
 While the swoln canvas bends the masts on high,
 Low in the waves the leeward cannon lie †,
 The sailors now, to give the ship relief,
 Reduce the topsails by a single reef ‡
 Each lofty yard with slacken'd cordage reels,
 Rattle the creaking blocks, and ringing wheels,
 Down the tall masts the topsails sink amain;
 And, soon reduc'd, assume their post again.
 More distant grew receding *Candia's* shore;
 And southward of the west *Cape Spado* bore.

Four hours the sun his high meridian throne
 Had left, and o'er *Atlantic* regions shone:
 Still blacker clouds, that all the skies invade,
 Drawn o'er his sullier orb a dismal shade.
 A squall deep low'ring blots the southern sky,
 Before whose boisterous breath the water's fly.

* *Scud* is a name given by seamen to the lowest clouds, which are driven with great rapidity along the atmosphere, in squally or tempestuous weather.

† When the wind crosses a ship's course, either directly or obliquely; that side of the ship upon which it acts, is called the weather-side; and the opposite one, which is then pressed downwards, is called the lee-side. Hence all the rigging and furniture of the ship are, at this time, distinguished by the side on which they are situated; as the lee-cannon, the lee-braces, the weather-braces, &c.

‡ The topsails are large square sails of the second degree in height and magnitude. Reefs are certain divisions or spaces by which the principal sails are reduced when the wind increases; and again enlarged proportionably when its force abates.

Its weight the topfails can no more sustain.
 Reef topfails, reef, the boatswain calls again !
 'The haliards* and top-bowlines † soon are gone,
 'To clue-lines and reef-tackles ‡ next they run :
 'The shivering sails descend : and now they square
 The yards, while ready sailors mount in air.
 The weather-earings and the lee they pass § ;
 The reefs-enroll'd, and every point made fast.
 Their task above thus finish'd, they descend,
 And vigilant th' approaching squall attend.
 It comes resistless, and with foaming sweep,
 Upturns the whitening surface of the deep.
 In such a tempest, borne to deeds of death,
 The wayward *Sisters* scour the blasted heath.
 With ruin pregnant now the clouds impend,
 And storm and cataract tumultuous blend,
 Deep on her side the reeling vessel lies—
 Brail up the mizen quick ! the master cries ||,

* *Haliards are either single ropes or tackles, by which the sails are hoisted up and lowered when the sail is to be extended or reduced.*

† *Bow lines are lines intended to keep the wind-ward edge of the sail steady, and prevent it from shaking in an unfavourable wind.*

‡ *Clue-lines are ropes used to truss up the clues, or lower corners, of the principal sails to their respective yards, particularly when the sail is to be close reefed or furled.—Reef tackles are ropes employed to facilitate the operation of reefing by confining the extremities of the reef close up to the yard, so that the interval becomes slack, and is therefore easily rolled up and fastened to the yard by the points employed for this purpose.*

§ *Earrings are small cords, by which the upper corners of the principal sails and also the extremities of the reefs are fastened to the yard-arms.*

|| *The mizen is a large sail of an oblong figure extended upon the mizen mast.*

Man the clue-garnet *! let the main-sheet fly †!—
 The boisterous squall still presses from on high,
 And swift, and fatal as the lightning's course,
 Thro' the torn main-fails burst and thund'ring force,
 While the rent canvas, flutter'd in the wind,
 Still on her flank the stooping bark inclin'd,—
 Bear up the helm ‡ a-weather! *Rodmond* cries;
 Swift, at the word, the helm a-weather flies.
 The prow with secret instinct veers apace;
 And now the fore-sail right athwart they brace;
 With equal sheets restrain'd, the bellying fail
 Spreads a broad concave to the sweeping gale.
 While o'er the foam the ship impetuous flies,
 Th' attentive timoneer § the helm applies.
 As in pursuit along th' aerial way;
 With ardent eye, the falcon marks his prey;
 Each motion watches of the doubtful chase,
 Obliquely wheeling thro' the liquid space;
 So, govern'd by the steerfman's glowing hands,
 The regent helm her motion still commands.

* *Clue-garnets are employed for the same purposes on the main-sail and fore-sail as the clue-lines are upon all other square sails.*

† *It is necessary in this place to remark, that the sheets, which are universally mistaken by the English poets and their readers for the sails themselves, are no other than the ropes used to extend the clues, or lower corners of the sails to which they are attached. To the main-sail and fore-sail there is a sheet and tack on each side; the latter of which is a thick rope serving to confine the weather-clue of the sail down to the ship's side, whilst the former draws out the lee-clue or lower-corner on the opposite side. Tacks are only used in a side wind.*

‡ *The helm is said to be a-weather, when the bar by which it is managed is turned to the side of the ship next the wind.*

§ *Timoneer (from timonnier, Fr.) the helmsman, or steerfman.*

But now the transient squall to leeward past,
 Again she rallies to the fullen blast.
 'The helm to starboard * turns ; with wings inclin'd
 The sidelong canvas clasps the faithless wind.
 'The mizen draws ; she springs aloof once more,
 While the fore stay sail † balances before.

The forefail brac'd obliquely to the wind,
 They near the prow th' extended tack confin'd ;
 Then on the leeward sheet the seamen bend,
 And haul the bowline to the bowsprit end,
 The topsails next they haste ; the burntlines gone,
 The cluelines thro' their wheel'd machinery run :
 On either side below the sheets are mann'd ;
 Again the fluttering sails their skirts expand.
 Once more the topsails, tho' with humbler plume,
 Mounting aloft their ancient post resume.
 Again the bowlines and the yards are brac'd ‡ ;
 And all th' entangled cords in order plac'd.

The sail, by whirlwinds thus so lately rent,
 In tatter'd ruins fluttering is unbent,
 Wich brails § refix'd another soon prepar'd,
 Ascending, spreads along beneath the yard.

* The helm, being turned to starboard, or to the right side of the ship, directs the prow to the left, or to port, and vice versa. Hence the helm being put a starboard, when the ship is running northward, directs her prow towards the West.

† This sail, which is with more propriety called the fore-top-mast-stay-sail, is a triangular sail that runs upon the fore topmast-stay, over the bowsprit. It is used to command the fore part of the ship, and counterbalance the sails extended towards the stern. See also the last note of this Canto.

‡ A yard is said to be braced, when it is turned about the most horizontally, either to the right or left : the ropes employed in this service are accordingly called braces.

§ The ropes used to truss up a sail to the yard or mast whereto it is attached, are, in a general sense, called brails.

To each yard-arm the head rope * they extend,
 And soon their earings and the roebins † bend.
 That task perform'd, they first the braces ‡ slack,
 Then to its station drag th' unwilling tack;
 And, while the lee clue-garnet's lower'd away,
 Taught aft the sheet, they tally and belay§.

Now to the north, from *Afric's* burning shore,
 A troop of porpoises their course explore:
 In curling wreaths they gambol on the tide,
 Now bound aloft, now down the billow glide;
 Their tracks awhile the hoary waves retain,
 That burn in sparkling trails along the main.
 These fleetest courfers of the finny race,
 When threat'ning clouds th' æth'ial vault deface,
 Their rout to leeward still sagacious form,
 To shun the fury of th' approaching storm.
 Fair *Candia* now no more, beneath her lee,
 Protects the vessel from the insulting sea:
 Round her broad arms impatient of controul,
 Rous'd from their secret deeps the billows roll.
 Sunk were the bulwarks of the friendly shore,
 And all the scene an hostile aspect wore.
 The flattering wind, that late with promis'd aid;
 From *Candia's* bay th' unwilling ship betray'd,
 No longer fawns beneath the fair disguise,
 But like a ruffian on his quarry flies,—
 Tost on the tide she feels the tempest blow,
 And dreads the vengeance of so fell a foe.

* The head-rope is a cord to which the upper part of the sail is sewed.

† Rope-bands, pronounced roebins, are small cords, used to fasten the upper edge of any sail to its respective yard.

‡ Because the lee-brace confines the yard so that the tack will not come down to its place till the braces are cast loose.

§ Taught implies stiff, tense, or extended strait: and tally is a phrase particularly applied to the operation of hauling aft the sheets, or drawing them towards the ship's stern. To belay, is to fasten.

CANTO II. THE SHIPWRECK

As the proud horse, with costly trappings gay,
 Exulting prances to the bloody fray ;
 Spurning the ground, he glories in his might,
 But reels tumultuous in the shock of fight :
 Even so, caparison'd in gaudy pride,
 The bounding vessel dances on the tide.—
 Fierce and more fierce the southern demon blew,
 And more incens'd the roaring waters grew.
 The ship no longer can her topsails spread,
 And every hope of fairer skies is fled.
 Bowlines and haliards are relax'd again ;
 Cluelines haul'd down, and sheets let fly amain ;
 Clued-up each topsail, and by braces squar'd ;
 The seamen climb aloft on either yard,
 They furl'd the sail, and pointed to the wind
 The yard, by rolling tackles * then confin'd.
 While o'er the ship the gallant boatswain flies,
 Like a hoarse mastiff, thro' the storm he cries :
 Prompt to direct the unskilful still appears ;
 Th' expert he praises, and the fearful cheers.
 Now some to strike top-gallant yards † attend ;
 Some travellers ‡ up the weather backstays § send :
 At each mast head the top ropes || others bend.

* *The rolling tackle is an assemblage of pullies, used to confine the yard to the weather-side of the mast, and prevent the former from rubbing against the latter by the fluctuating motion of the ship in a turbulent sea.*

† *It is usual to send down the top-gallant yards on the approach of a storm. They are the highest yards that are rigged in a ship.*

‡ *Travellers are slender iron rings, encircling the backstays, and used to facilitate the hoisting or lowering of the top-gallant yards, by confining them to the backstays, in their ascent or descent, so as to prevent them from swinging about, by the agitation of the vessel.*

§ *Backstays are long ropes, extending from the right and left side of the ship to the topmast heads, which they are intended to secure, by counteracting the effort of the wind upon the sails.*

|| *Top-ropes are the cords by which the top gallant yards*

The youngest sailors from the yards above
 Their purrels *, lift †, and braces soon remove ;
 Then topt and end, and to the travellers tied;
 Charg'd with their sails, they down the back-stays slide.
 The yards secure along the booms ‡ reclin'd ;
 While some the flying cords aloft confin'd.
 Their sails reduc'd, and all the rigging clear,
 Awhile the crew relax from toils severe,
 Awhile their spirits, with fatigue oppress'd,
 In vain expect th' alternate hour of rest ;
 But with redoubling force the tempests blow,
 And watery hills in fell succession flow.
 A dismal shade o'ercasts the frowning skies ;
 New troubles grow ; new difficulties rise.
 No season this from duty to descend !—
 All hands on deck th' eventful hour attend.

His race perform'd, the sacred lamp of day
 Now dipt in western clouds his parting ray.
 His sick'ning fires, half-lost in ambient haze,
 Refract along the dusk a crimson blaze ;
 Till deep immerg'd the languid orb declines,
 And now to cheerless night the sky resigns !
 Sad evening's hour, how different from the past !
 No flaming pomp, no blushing glories cast.
 No ray of friendly light is seen around :
 The moon and stars in hopeless shade are drown'd.

are hoisted up from the deck, or lowered again in stormy weather.

* The purrel, which is usually a moveable band of rope, is employed to confine the yard to its respective mast.

† Lifts are ropes extending from the head of any mast to the extremities of its particular yard, to support the weight of the latter ; to retain it in balance ; or to raise one yard arm higher than the other, which is accordingly called topping.

‡ The booms in this place imply any masts or yards lying on the deck in reserve, to supply the place of others which may be carried away by distress of weather, &c.

The ship no longer can her courses * bear ;
 To reef the courses is the master's care :
 The sailors summon'd aft, a daring band !
 Attend th' unfolding brails at his command.
 But here the doubtful officers dispute,
 Till skill and judgment prejudice confute.—
Rodmond, whose genius never soar'd beyond
 The narrow rules of art his youth had conn'd ;
 Still to the hostile fury of the wind
 Releas'd the sheet, and kept the track confin'd.
 To long-tried practice obstinately warm,
 He doubts conviction, and relies on form.
 But the sage master this advice declines ;
 With whom *Arion* in opinion joins.—
 The watchful seaman whose sagacious eye
 On sure experience may with truth rely,
 Who from the reigning cause foretels th' effect,
 This barbarous practice ever will reject.
 For, fluttering loose in air, the rigid sail
 Soon flits to ruins in the furious gale ;
 And he who strives the tempest to disarm,
 Will never first embraile the lee yard-arm.
 The master said ;—obedient to command,
 To raise the tack the ready sailors stand †.
 Gradual it loosens, while th' involving clue,
 Swell'd by the wind, aloft unruffling flew.

* The courses are generally understood to be the mainsail, fore-sail, and mizen, which are the largest and lowest sails on their several masts : the term is, however, sometimes taken in a larger sense.

† It has been remarked before, that the tack is always fastened to windward ; accordingly as soon as it is cast loose, and the clue-garnet hawled up, the weather-clue of the sail immediately mounts to the yard ; and this operation must be carefully performed in a storm, to prevent the sail from splitting, or being torn to pieces by shivering.

The sheet and weather-brace they now stand by *
 The lee clue-garnet and the bunt-lines ply.
 Thus all prepar'd, Let go the sheet, he cries ;
 Impetuous round the ringing wheels it flies :
 Shivering at first, till by the blast impell'd,
 High o'er the lee-yard arm the canvas swell'd ;
 By spilling-lines † embrac'd, with brails confin'd,
 It lies at length unshaken by the wind.
 The foresail then secur'd, with equal care
 Again to reef the main-sail they repair.—
 While some high mounted over-hawl the tye,
 Below the down-hawl tackle ‡ others ply.
 Jeers ||, lifts, and brails, a seaman each attends,
 Along the mast the willing yard descends.
 When lower'd sufficient they securely brace ;
 And fix the rolling tackle in its place ;
 The reef-lines § and their ear-rings now prepar'd,
 Mounting on pliant throwds ¶, they man the yard.

* It is necessary to pull in the weather-brace whenever the sheet is cast off, to preserve the sail from shaking violently.

† The spilling-lines, which are only used on particular occasions in tempestuous weather, are employed to draw together and confine the belly of the sail, when it is inflated by the wind over the yard.

‡ The violence of the wind forces the yard so much outward from the mast on these occasions, that it cannot be easily lowered so as to reef the sail, without the application of a tackle to hawl it down on the mast. This is afterwards converted into rolling-tackle.

|| Jeers are the same to the main-sail, foresail, and mizen, as the baliards are to all the inferior sails. The tye is the upper part of the jeers.

§ Reef-lines are only used to reef the main-sail and foresail. They are passed in spiral turns through the eye-let holes of the reef, and over the head of the sails between the rope-band-legs, till they reach the extremities of the reef, to which they are firmly extended, so as to lace the reef close up to the yard.

¶ Shrouds are thick ropes, stretching from the mast-heads downwards to the outside of the ship, serving to support the

Far on th' extremes two able hands appear,
Arion there, the hardy boatswain here ;
 That in the van to front the tempest hung ;
 This round the lee yard-arm, ill-omen'd ! clung,
 Each ear-ring to its station first they bend ;
 The reef-band * then along the yard extend :
 The circling ear-rings, round th' extremes entwin'd,
 By outer and by inner turns † they bind.
 From hand to hand, the reef-lines, next received,
 Thro' eye-let holes and roebins-legs were reev'd.
 The reef in double folds involv'd they lay ;
 Strain the firm cord and either end belay.

Hadst thou *Arion* ! held the leeward post,
 While on the yard by mountain billows tost,
 Perhaps oblivion o'er our tragic tale
 Had then forever drawn her dusky veil.
 But ruling Heaven prolong'd thy vital date,
 Severer ills to suffer and relate !

For while their orders those aloft attend,
 To furl the main-sail, or on deck descend,
 A sea ‡, up-furging with tremendous roll,
 To distant ruin seems to doom the whole.
 O friends secure your hold ! *Arion* cries !
 It comes all-dreadful, stooping from the skies !
 Uplifted on its horrid edge, she feels
 The shock, and on her side half-buried reels :

masts. They are also used as a range of rope-ladders by which the seamen ascend or descend, to perform whatever is necessary about the sails and rigging.

* *The reef-band is a long piece of canvas sewed across the sail, to strengthen the canvas in the place where the eye-let holes of the reef are formed.*

† *The outer turns of the ear-ring serve to extend the sail along the yard ; and the inner turns are employed to confine its head-rope close to its surface.*

‡ *A sea is the general name given by sailors to a single wave or billow : hence when a wave bursts over the deck, the vessel is said to have shipped a sea.*

The sail, half-buried in the whelming wave,
 A fearful warning to the seamen gave :
 While from its margin, terrible to tell !
 Three sailors with their gallant boatswain fell,
 Torn with resistless fury from their hold,
 In vain their struggling arms the yard infold :
 In vain to grapple flying cords they try ;
 The cords, alas ! a solid gripe deny !
 Prone on the midnight surge with panting breath
 They cry for aid, and long contend with death.
 High o'er their heads the rolling billows sweep,
 And down they sink in everlasting sleep.—
 Bereft of power to help, their comrades see
 The wretched victims die beneath the lee ;
 With fruitless sorrow their lost state bemoan ;
 Perhaps a fatal prelude to their own !

In dark suspense on deck the pilots stand,
 Nor can determine on the next command.
 Tho' still they know the vessel's armed side
 Impenetrable to the clasping tide :
 Tho' still the waters by no secret wound
 A passage to her deep recesses found ;
 Surrounding evils yet they ponder o'er,
 A storm, a dangerous sea, and leeward shore !
 Should they, tho' reef'd, again their sails extend,
 Again in fluttering fragments they may rend ;
 Or should they stand, beneath the dreadful strain,
 The down-prest ship may never rise again ;
 Too late to weather * now *Morea's* land,
 Yet verging fast to *Athens* rocky strand.—
 Thus they lament the consequence severe,
 Where perils unallay'd by hope appear.
 Long in their minds revolving each event,
 At last to furl the courses they consent.
 That done to reef the mizen next agree,
 And try † beneath it, sidelong in the sea.

* *To weather a shore, is to pass to the windward of it, which at this time is prevented by the violence of the storm.*

† *To try, is to lay the ship, with her side nearly in the direction of the wind and sea, with the head somewhat in-*

Now down the mast the sloping yard declin'd,
 Till by the jears and topping-lift * confin'd.
 The head, with doubling canvas fenc'd around,
 In balance, near the lofty peak, they bound.
 The reef enwrapt, th' inserted knittles ty'd,
 To hoist the shorten'd sail again they hi'd.
 The order given, the yard aloft they sway'd;
 The brails relax'd, th' extended sheet belay'd.
 The helm its post forsook, and lash'd a-lee †,
 Inclin'd the wayward prow to front the sea.

When sacred *Orpheus*, on the *Stygian* coast,
 With notes divine implor'd his comfort lost;
 Tho' round him perils grew in fell array,
 And fates and furies stood to bar his way;
 Not more advent'rous was th' attempt to move
 The powers of hell with strains of heavenly love,
 Than mine to bid th' unwilling muse explore
 The wilderness of rude mechanic lore.
 Such toil th' unwearied *Dædalus* endur'd,
 When in the *Cretan* labyrinth immur'd;
 Till art her salutary help bestow'd,
 To guide him through that intricate abode.
 Thus, long entangled in a thorny way,
 That never heard the sweet *Pierian* lay,
 The Muse that tun'd to barbarous sounds her string,
 Now spreads like *Dædalus* a bolder wing;

clined to the windward: the helm being laid a-lee to retain her in that position. See a further illustration on this in the last note of this Canto.

* *The topping-lift which tops the upper-end of the mizen-yard. This line and the six following describe the operation of reefing and balancing the mizen. The reef of this sail is towards the lower end, the knittles being small short lines used in the room of points for this purpose they are accordingly knotted under the foot-rope, or lower edge of the sail.*

† *Lash'd a-lee, is fastened to the side lee.*

The verse begins in softer strains to flow,
Replete with sad variety of woe.

As yet amid this elemental war,
That scatters desolation from afar,
Nor toil nor hazard nor distress appear
To sink the seamen with unmanly fear.
Tho' their firm hearts no pageant honour boast.
They scorn the wretch that trembles in his post.
Who from the face of danger strives to turn,
Indignant from the social hour they spurn.
Tho' now full oft they felt the raging tide
In proud rebellion climb the vessel's side,
No future ills unknown their souls appal;
They know no danger, or they scorn it all!
But e'en the generous spirits of the brave,
Subdu'd by toil, a friendly respite crave;
A short repose alone their thoughts implore,
Their harass'd powers by slumber to restore.

Far other cares the master's mind employ;
Approaching perils all his hopes destroy.
In vain he spreads the graduated chart,
And bounds the distance by the rules of art;
In vain athwart the mimic seas expands
The compasses to circumjacent lands.
Ungrateful task! for no asylum trac'd,
A passage open'd from the wat'ry waste.
Fate seem to guard with adamantine mound,
The path to every friendly port around.
While *Albert* thus, with secret doubts dismay'd,
The geometric distances survey'd,
On deck the watchful *Rodmond* cries aloud,
Secure your lives,—grasp every man a shroud!—
Rous'd from his trance he mounts with eyes aghast;
When o'er the ship, in undulation vast,
A giant surge down rushes from on high,
And fore and aft dis sever'd ruins lie.—
As when, *Britannia's* empire to maintain,
Great *Hawke* descends in thunder on the main;
Around the brazen voice of battle roars,
And fatal lightnings blast the hostile shores;

Beneath the storm their shatter'd navies groan,
The trembling deeps recoil from zone to zone;
Thus the torn vessel felt th' enormous stroke;
The boats beneath the thundering deluge broke;
Forth-started from their planks the bursting rings,
Th' extended cordage all afunder springs.
The pilot's fair machinery strews the deck,
And cards and needles swim in floating wreck.
The balanc'd mizen rending to the head,
In streaming ruins from the margin fled.
The sides convulsive shook on groaning beams,
And rent with labour yawn'd the pitchy seams,
They sound the well* ; and, terrible to hear,
Five feet immers'd along the line appear !
At either pump they ply the clanking brake†,
And turn by turn th' ungrateful office take.
Rodmond, Arion, and Palemon, here,
At this sad task all diligent appear.
As some fair castle, shook by rude alarms,
Opposes long th' approach of hostile arms ;
Grim war around her plants his black array,
And death and sorrow mark his horrid way ;
Till in some destin'd hour, against her wall,
In tenfold rage the fatal thunders fall ;
The ramparts crack, the solid bulwarks rend ;
And hostile troops the shatter'd breach ascend ;
Her valiant inmates still the foe retard,
Resolv'd till death their sacred charge to guard :
So the brave mariners their pumps attend,
And help incessant, by rotation, lend ;
But all in vain—for now the sounding cord
Updrawn, an undiminish'd depth explor'd.
Nor this severe distress is found alone ;
The ribs oppress'd by pond'rous cannon groan—

* *The well is an apartment in the ship's hold, serving to enclose the pumps. It is sounded by dropping a measured iron rod down into it by a long line. Hence the increase or diminution of the leaks are easily discovered.*

† *The brake is the lever or handle of the pump, by which it is wrought.*

Deep rolling from the wat'ry volume's height,
 The tortur'd sides seem bursting with their weight.
 So reels *Pelorus*, with convulsive throes,
 When in his veins the burning earthquake glows;
 Hoarse thro' his intrails roars th' infernal flame,
 And central thunders rend his groaning frame——
 Accumulated mischiefs thus arise,
 And fate vindictive all their skill defies.
 One only remedy the season gave;
 To plunge the nerves of battle in the wave:
 From their high platforms thus th' artillery thrown,
 Eas'd of their load the timbers less shall groan.
 But arduous is the task their lot requires;
 A task that hovering Fate alone inspires!
 For, while intent the yawning decks to ease,
 That ever and anon are drench'd with seas,
 Some fatal billow, with recoiling sweep,
 May whirl the helpless wretches in the deep.
 No season this for council or delay!
 Too soon the eventful moments haste away!
 Here perseverance, with each help of art,
 Must join the boldest efforts of the heart.
 These only now their misery can relieve;
 These only now a dawn of safety give!—
 While o'er the quiv'ring deck, from van to rear,
 Broad surges roll in terrible career,
Rodmond, *Arion*, and a chosen crew,
 This office in the face of death pursue.
 The wheel'd artillery o'er the deck to guide,
Rodmond, descending, claim'd the weather side.
 Fearless of heart the chief his orders gave;
 Fronting the rude assaults of every wave.
 Like some strong watch-tower nodding o'er the deep,
 Whose rocky base the foaming waters sweep,
 Untam'd he stood; the stern aerial war
 Had mark'd his honest face with many a scar—
 Meanwhile *Arion*, traversing the waist*,
 The cordage of the leeward guns unbrac'd,
 And pointed crows beneath the metal plac'd.

* The waist of a ship of this kind is an hollow space, of

Watching the roll, their forelocks they withdrew,
 And from their beds the reeling cannon drew.
 Then, from the windward battlements unbound,
Rodmond's associates wheel th' artillery round;
 Pointed with iron fangs, their bars beguile
 The pond'rous arms across the steep defile;
 Then, hurl'd from sounding hinges o'er the side,
 Thund'ring they plunge into the flashing tide.

The ship thus eas'd some little respite finds,
 In this rude conflict of the seas and winds.
 Such ease *Alcides* felt, when, clogg'd with gore,
 Th' envenom'd mantle from his side he tore;
 When, stung with burning pain, he strove, too late,
 To stop the swift career of cruel fate.
 Yet then his heart one ray of hope procur'd,
 Sad harbinger of seven-fold pangs endur'd!
 Such, and so short, the pause of woe she found!—
Cimmerian darkness shades the deeps around,
 Save when the lightnings gleaming on the sight,
 Flash thro' the gloom a pale, disastrous light.
 Above, all æther fraught with scenes of woe,
 With grim destruction threatens all below.
 Beneath, the storm-lash'd furies furious rise,
 And wave uproll'd on wave assails the skies;
 With ever-floating bulwarks they surround
 The ship, half swallow'd in the black profound!
 With ceaseless hazard and fatigue oppress'd,
 Dismay and anguish every heart possess;
 For, while with boundless inundation o'er
 The sea-beat ship th' involving waters roar,
 Displac'd beneath, by her capacious womb,
 They rage their ancient station to resume;
 By secret ambushes, their force to prove,
 Thro' many a winding channel first they rove;
 Till, gathering fury, like the fever'd blood,
 Thro' her dark veins they roll a rapid flood.

about five feet in depth, contained between the elevations of the quarter-deck and fore-castle, and having the upper deck for its base or platform.

While unrelenting thus the leaks they found,
 The pumps with ever-clanking strokes resound.
 Around each leaping valve, by toil subdu'd,
 The tough bull-hide must ever be renew'd.
 Their sinking hearts unusual horrors chill;
 And down their weary limbs thick dews distil.
 No ray of light their dying hope redeems!
 Pregnant with some new woe each moment teems!

Again the chief th' instructive draught extends,
 And o'er the figur'd plane attentive bends;
 To him the motion of each orb was known,
 That wheels around the sun's refulgent throne:
 But here, alas! his science nought avails!
 Art drops unequal, and experience fails.
 The different traverses since twilight made,
 He on the hydrographic circle laid;
 Then the broad angle of lee-way * explor'd,
 As swept across the graduated chord.
 Her place discover'd by the rules of art,
 Unusual terrors shook the master's heart;
 When *Falconera's* rugged isle he found
 Within her drift, with shelves and breakers bound.
 For if on those destructive shallows tost,
 The helpless bark with all her crew are lost:
 As fatal still appears, that danger o'er,
 The steep *St. George* and rocky *Gardalor*.
 With him the pilots, of their hopeless state
 In mournful consultation now debate.
 Not more perplexing doubts her chiefs appal,
 When some proud city verges to her fall;
 While ruin glares around, and pale affright
 Convenes her councils in the dead of night—
 No blazon'd trophies o'er their concave spread,
 Nor storied pillars raise aloft the head:

* *The lee-way, or drift, which, in this place, are synonymous terms, is the movement by which a ship is driven sideways at the mercy of the wind and sea, when she is deprived of the government of the sails and helm.*

But here the queen of shade around them threw
 Her dragon-wing, disastrous to the view !
 Dire was the scene, with whirlwind, hail, and shower ;
 Black melancholy rul'd the fearful hour !
 Beneath tremendous roll'd the flashing tide,
 Where fate on ev'ry billow seem'd to ride.
 Inclos'd with ills, by peril unsubdu'd,
 Great in distress the master-seaman stood :
 Skill'd to command ; delib'rate to advise ;
 Expert in action ; and in council wise ;
 Thus to his partners, by the crew unheard,
 The dictates of his soul the chief referr'd :

Ye faithful mates, who all my troubles share,
 Approv'd companions of your master's care !
 To you, alas ! 'twere fruitless now to tell
 Our sad distress, already known too well !
 This morn with favouring gales the port we left,
 Tho' now of every flattering hope bereft,
 No skill, nor long experience could forecast
 Th' unseen approach of this destructive blast.
 These seas, where storms at various seasons blow,
 No reigning winds, nor certain omens know.
 The hour, th' occasion all your skill demands ;
 A leaky ship embay'd by dangerous lands.
 Our bark no transient jeopardy surrounds :
 Groaning she lies beneath unnumber'd wounds,
 'Tis our's the doubtful remedy to find ;
 To shun the fury of the seas and wind.
 For in this hollow swell, with labour sore,
 Her flank can bear the bursting flood no more ;
 Yet this, or other ills she must endure ;
 A dire disease, and desperate is the cure !
 Thus two expedients offer'd to your choice,
 Alone require your counsel and your voice.
 These only in our power are left to try ;
 To perish here, or from the storm to fly,
 The doubtful balance in my judgment cast,
 For various reasons I prefer the last.
 'Tis true, the vessel and her costly freight,
 To me consign'd, my orders only wait ;

Yet, since the charge of ev'ry life is mine,
 To equal votes our counsels I resign;
 Forbid it, Heaven, that in this dreadful hour,
 I claim the dangerous reins of purblind power!
 But should we now resolve to bear away,
 Our hopeless state can suffer no delay.
 Nor can we thus, bereft of every sail,
 Attempt to steer obliquely on the gale.
 For then, if broaching sideway to the sea,
 Our dropsy'd ship may founder by the lee;
 No more obedient to the pilot's power,
 Th' o'erwhelming wave may soon her frame devour.

He said; the listening mates, with fix'd regard,
 And silent rev'rence, his opinion heard.
 Important was the question in debate,
 And o'er their counsels hung impending fate.
Rodmond, in many a scene of peril try'd,
 Had oft' the master's happier skill descry'd.
 Yet now the hour, the scene, the occasion known,
 Perhaps with equal right preferr'd his own.
 Of long experience in the naval art,
 Blunt was his speech, and naked was his heart;
 Alike to him each climate and each blast;
 The first in danger, in retreat the last:
 Sagacious balancing th' oppos'd events,
 From *Albert* his opinion thus dissents.

Too true the perils of the present hour,
 Where toils succeeding toils our strength o'er-power!
 Yet whither can we turn, what road pursue,
 With death before still opening on the view?
 Our bark, 'tis true, no shelter here can find,
 Sore shatter'd by the ruffian seas and wind.
 Yet with what hope of refuge can we flee,
 Chac'd by this tempest an outrageous sea?
 For while its violence the tempest keeps,
 Bereft of every sail we roam the deeps:
 At random driven, to present death we haste;
 And one short hour, perhaps, may be our last.
 In vain the gulph of *Corinth* on our lee,
 Now opens to her ports a passage free;

Since, if before the blast the vessel flies,
 Full in her track unnumber'd dangers rise.
 Here *Falconera* spreads her lurking snares ;
 There distant *Greece* her rugged shelf prepares.
 Should once her bottom strike that rocky shore,
 The splitting bark that instant were no more ;
 Nor she alone, but with her all the crew,
 Beyond relief, were doom'd to perish too.
 Thus if to scud too rashly we consent,
 Too late in fatal hour we may repent.
 Then of our purpose this appears the scope,
 To weigh the danger with the doubtful hope.
 Though sorely buffeted by every sea,
 Our hull unbroken long may try a lee.
 The crew, tho' harass'd long with toils severe,
 Still at their pumps perceive no danger near.
 Shall we, incautious, then the danger tell,
 At once their courage and their hope to quell ?
 Prudence forbids !—This southern tempest soon
 May change its quarter with the changing moon.
 Its rage, tho' terrible, may soon subside,
 Nor into mountains lash the unruly tide.
 These leaks shall then decrease ; the sails once more
 Direct our course to some relieving shore.—

Thus while he spoke, around from man to man
 At either pump a hollow murmur ran.
 For while the vessel thro' unnumber'd chinks,
 Above, below, th' invading water drinks,
 Sounding her depth, they ey'd the wetted scale,
 And lo ! the leaks o'er all their powers prevail.
 Yet in their post, by terrors unsubstu'd,
 They with redoubling force their task pursu'd.

And now the senior pilot seem'd to wait

Arion's voice to close the dark debate.

Tho' many a bitter storm with peril fraught,
 In Neptune's school the wandering stripling taught,
 Not twice nine summers yet matur'd his thought. }
 So soft he bled by fortune's cruel dart,
 It fell at last innoxious on his heart.

His mind still shunning care with secret hate,
 In patient indolence resign'd to fate,
 But now the horrors that around him roll,
 Thus rous'd to action his rekindling soul.

With fix'd attention, pondering in my mind
 The dark distresses on each side combin'd;
 While here we linger in the pass of fate,
 I see no moment left for sad debate.
 For, some decision if we wish to form,
 Ere yet our vessel sink beneath the storm,
 Her shatter'd state and yon desponding crew
 At once suggest what measures to pursue.
 The lab'ring hull already seems half fill'd
 With waters through an hundred leaks distill'd;
 As in a dropsey, wallowing with her freight,
 Half-drown'd she lies, a dead inactive weight!
 Thus, drench'd by every wave, her riven deck,
 Stript and defenceless, floats a naked wreck;
 Her wounded flanks no longer can sustain
 These fell invasions of the bursting main.
 At every pitch th' o'erwhelming billows bend
 Beneath their load, the quivering bowsprit-end.
 A fearful warning! since the masts on high
 On that support with trembling hope rely.
 At either pump our seamen pant for breath,
 In dark dismay, anticipating death.
 Still all our powers th' encreasing leaks defy:
 We sink at sea, no shore, no haven nigh.
 One dawn of hope yet breaks athwart the gloom,
 To light and save us from the wat'ry tomb.
 That bids us shun the death impending here;
 Fly from the following blast, and shoreward steer.
 'Tis urg'd, indeed, the fury of the gale
 Precludes the help of every guiding sail;
 And driven before it on the wat'ry waste,
 To rocky shores and scenes of death we haste.
 But haply *Falconera* we may shun;
 And far to *Grecian* coasts is yet the run:
 Less harrafs'd then, our scudding ship may bear
 Th' assaulting surge repell'd upon her rear;

Even then the wearied storm as soon shall die,
Or less torment the groaning pines on high.
Should we at last be driven by dire decree
Too near the fatal margin of the sea,
The hull dismasted, there a while may ride,
With lengthen'd cables on the raging tide.
Perhaps, kind heaven, with interposing power,
May curb the tempest ere that dreadful hour.
But here ingulf'd and foundering while we stay,
Fate hovers o'er, and marks us for her prey.

He said;—*Palemon* saw, with grief of heart,
The storm prevailing o'er the pilot's art:
In silent terror and distress involv'd,
He heard their last alternative resolv'd.
High beat his bosom. With such fear subdu'd,
Beneath the gloom of some enchanted wood,
Oft in old time the wandering swain explor'd
The midnight Wizards, breathing rites abhor'd;
Trembling approach'd their incantations fell,
And, chill'd with horror, heard the songs of hell.
Arion saw, with secret anguish mov'd,
The deep affliction of the friend he lov'd;
And, all awake to friendship's genial heat,
His bosom felt consenting tumults beat.
Alas! no season this for tender love;
Far hence the music of the myrtle grove!—
With comfort's soothing voice, from hope deriv'd,
Palemon's drooping spirit he reviv'd.
For consolation, oft with healing art,
Retunes the jarring numbers of the heart.—
Now had the pilots all the events revolv'd,
And on their final refuge thus resolv'd;
When, like the faithful shepherd, who beholds
Some prowling wolf approach his fleecy folds;
To the brave crew, whom racking doubts perplex,
The dreadful purpose *Albert* thus directs:
Unhappy partners in a wayward fate!
Whose gallant spirits now are known too late;
Ye! who unmov'd behold this angry storm
With terrors all the rolling deep perform;

Who, patient in adversity, still bear
 The firmest front when greatest ills are near !
 'The truth, though grievous, I must now reveal,
 That long in vain I purpos'd to conceal.
 Ingulf'd, all helps of art we vainly try,
 To weather leeward shores, alas ! too nigh.
 Our crazy bark no longer can abide
 The seas that thunder o'er her batter'd side :
 And, while the leaks a fatal warning give,
 That in this raging sea she cannot live,
 One only refuge from despair we find ;
 At once to veer and scud before the wind *.
 Perhaps e'en then to ruin we may steer ;
 For broken shores beneath our lee appear ;
 But that's remote, and instant death is here :
 Yet there, by Heaven's assistance, we may gain
 Some creek or inlet of the *Grecian* main ;
 Or, shelter'd by some rock at anchor ride,
 'Till with abating rage the blast subside.

But, if, determin'd by the will of Heaven,
 Our helpless bark at last ashore is driven,
 'These counsels follow'd from the wat'ry grave
 Our floating sailors in the surf may save.

And first let all our axes be secur'd,
 To cut the mast and rigging from aboard.
 Then to the quarters bind each plank and oar,
 To float between the vessel and the shore.
 The longest cordage too must be convey'd
 On deck, and to the weather-rails belay'd.
 So they who haply reach alive the land,
 Th' extended lines may fasten on the strand.
 Whene'er loud thundering on the leeward shore,
 While yet aloof we hear the breakers roar ;
 Thus for the terrible event prepar'd,
 Brace fore and aft to starboard every yard.
 So shall our masts swim lighter on the wave,
 And from the broken rocks our seamen save.

* For an explanation of these manœuvres, the reader is referred to the last note of this Canto.

Then westward turn the stem, that every mast
 May shoreward fall, when from the vessel cast.—
 When o'er her side once more the billows bound,
 Ascend the rigging till she strikes the ground :
 And when you hear aloft th' alarming shock
 That strikes her bottom on some pointed rock,
 The boldest of our sailors must descend,
 The dangerous business of the deck to tend :
 Then each, secur'd by some convenient cord,
 Should cut the shrouds and rigging from the board.
 Let the broad axes next assail each mast ;
 And booms and oars and rafts to leeward cast.
 Thus, while the cordage stretch'd ashore may guide
 Our brave companions through the swelling tide,
 This floating lumber shall sustain them, o'er
 The rocky shelves, in safety to the shore.
 But as your firmest succour, till the last,
 O cling securely on each faithful mast !
 Tho' great the danger, and the task severe,
 Yet bow not to the tyranny of fear !
 If once that slavish yoke your spirits quell,
 Adieu to hope ! to life itself farewell !

I know, among you some full oft have view'd,
 With murdering weapons arm'd, a lawless brood,
 On England's vile inhuman shore, who stand
 The sole reproach and scandal of our land !
 To rob the wanderers wreck'd upon the strand. }
 These, while their savage office they pursue,
 Oft wound to death the helpless plunder'd crew,
 Who scap'd from every horror of the main,
 Implor'd their mercy, but implor'd in vain :
 But dread not this ?—a crime to *Greece* unknown !
 Such blood-hounds all her circling shores disown :
 Her sons, by barbarous tyranny oppress'd,
 Can share affliction with the wretch distress'd :
 Their hearts, by cruel fate inur'd to grief,
 Oft to the friendless stranger yield relief.

With conscious horror struck, the naval band,
 Detested for a while their native land.

They curs'd the sleeping vengeance of the laws,
 That thus forgot her guardian sailors' cause.
 Meanwhile the master's voice again they heard,
 Whom, as with filial duty, all rever'd.

No more remains—but now a trusty band
 Must ever at the pump industrious stand;
 And while with us the rest attend to wear,
 Two skilful seamen to the helm repair!—
 O Source of Life! our refuge and our stay!
 Whose voice the warring elements obey,
 On thy supreme assistance we rely;
 Thy mercy supplicate if doom'd to die!
 Perhaps this storm is sent, with healing breath,
 From neighbouring shores to scourge disease and death!
 'Tis ours on thine unerring laws to trust:
 With thee, great Lord! whatever is, is just.

He said, and with consenting reverence fraught,
 The sailors join'd his prayer in silent thought.
 His intellectual eye, serenely bright!
 Saw distant objects with prophetic light.
 Thus in a land, that lasting wars oppress,
 That groans beneath misfortune and distress;
 Whose wealth to conquering armies falls a prey;
 Her bulwarks sinking, as her troops decay;
 Some bold sagacious statesman from the helm,
 Sees desolation gathering o'er his realm:
 He darts around his penetrating eyes,
 Where dangers grow, and hostile unions rise:
 With deep attention mark's th' invading foe;
 Eludes their wiles and frustrates every blow,
 Tries his last art the tottering state to save,
 Or in its ruins find a glorious grave.

Still in the yawning trough the vessel reels,
 Ingulf'd beneath two fluctuating hills:
 On either side they rise; tremendous scene!
 A long dark melancholy vale between*.

** That the reader who is unacquainted with the manœuvres of navigation, may conceive a clearer idea of a*

The balanc'd ship, now forward, now behind,
 Still felt th' impression of the waves and wind,
 And to the right and left by turns inclin'd,
 But *Albert* from behind the balance drew,
 And on the prow its double efforts threw.—
 The order now was given to bear away ;
 The order given, the timoneers obey.
 High o'er the bowsprit stretch'd the tortur'd sail,
 As on the rack, distends beneath the gale.
 But scarce the yielding prow its impulse knew,
 When in a thousand flitting shreds it flew !—

Ship's state when trying, and of the change of her situation to that of scudding, I have quoted a part of the explanation of those articles as they appear in the Dictionary of the Marine.

Trying is the situation in which a ship lies nearly in the trough or hollow of the sea in a tempest, particularly when it blows contrary to her course.

In trying as well as in scudding, the sails are always reduced in proportion to the increase of the storm, and in either state, if the storm is excessive, she may have all her sails furled ; or be, according to the sea phrase, under bare poles.

The intent of spreading a sail at this time is to keep the ship more steady, and to prevent her from rolling violently, by pressing her side down in the water ; and also to turn her head towards the source of the wind, so that the shock of the seas may fall more obliquely on her flank, than when she lies along the trough of the sea, or in the interval between two waves. While she lies in this situation, the helm is fastened close to the lee-side, to prevent her, as much as possible, from falling to leeward. But as the ship is not then kept in equilibrio by the operation of her sails, which at other times counterbalance each other at the head and stern, she is moved by a slow, but continual vibration, which turns her head alternately to windward and to leeward, forming an angle of 30 or 40 degrees in the interval. That part where she stops in approaching the direction of the wind, is called her coming too ; and the contrary excess of the angle to leeward, is called her falling off.

Weering or wearing, as used in the present sense, may

Yet *Albert* new resources still prepares,
 And, bridling grief, redoubles all his cares.
 Away there; lower the mizen-yard on deck!
 He calls, and brace the foremost yards aback!
 His great example every bosom fires;
 New life rekindles, and new hope inspires:
 While to the helm unfaithful still she lies,
 One desperate remedy at last he tries.—
 Haste, with your weapons, cut the shrouds and stay;
 And hew at once the mizen-mast away!

be defined, the movement by which a ship changes her state from trying to that of scudding, or, of running before the direction of the wind and sea.

It is an axiom in natural philosophy, "That every body will persevere in a state of rest, or of moving uniformly in a right line, unless it be compelled to change its state by forces impressed: and that the change of motion is proportional to the moving force impressed, and made according to the right line in which that force acts."

Hence it is easy to conceive how a ship is compelled to turn into any direction by the force of the wind, acting upon any part of her length in lines parallel to the plane of the horizon. Thus in the act of tacking, which is a necessary consequence of this invariable principle, the object of the seaman is to reduce the action of the wind on the ship's hind part, and to receive its utmost exertion on her fore part, so that the latter may be pushed to leeward. This effect is either produced by the operation of the sails, or by the impression of the wind on the masts and yards. In the former case the sails on the hind part of the ship are either furled, or arranged nearly parallel to the direction of the wind, which then glides ineffectually along their surfaces; at the same time the foremost sails are spread abroad, so as to receive the greatest exertion of the wind. The fore part accordingly yields to this impulse, and is put in motion; and this motion, necessarily conspiring with that of the wind, pushes the ship about as much as is requisite to produce the desired effect.

But when the tempest is so violent as to preclude the use of sails, the effort of the wind operates almost equally

He said, the attentive sailors on each side,
At his command the trembling cords divide.
Fast by the fated pine bold *Rodmond* stands :
Th' impatient axe hung gleaming in his hands ;
Brandish'd on high, it fell with dreadful sound ;
The tall mast groaning felt the deadly wound.
Deep gash'd with sores, the tottering structure rings,
And crashing, thund'ring o'er the quarter swings.

on the opposite ends of the ship, because the masts and yards, situated near the head and stern, serve to counterbalance each other, in receiving its impression. The effect of the helm is also considerably diminished, because the head-way, which gives life and vigour to all its operations, is at this time feeble and ineffectual. Hence it becomes necessary to destroy this equilibrium which subsists between the masts and yards before and behind, and to throw the balance forward to prepare for weering. If this cannot be effected by the arrangement of the yards on the masts, and it becomes absolutely necessary to weer, in order to save the ship from destruction, the mizen mast must be cut away, and even the main-mast, if she still remains incapable of answering the helm by turning her prow to lee-ward.

Scudding is that movement in navigation by which a ship is carried precipitately before a tempest.

As a ship flies with amazing rapidity through the water, whenever this expedient is put in practice, it is never attempted in a contrary wind, unless when her condition renders her incapable of sustaining the mutual effort of the wind and waves any longer on her side, without being exposed to the most imminent danger.

A ship either scuds with a sail extended on her fore-mast, or, if the storm is excessive, without any sail, which in the sea-pharse, is called scudding under bare poles.

The principal hazards incident to scudding are, generally, a sea striking the ship's stern ; the difficulty of steering, which perpetually exposes her to the danger of broaching-too ; and the want of sufficient sea-room. A sea which strikes the stern violently may shatter it to pieces, by which

Thus when some limb convuls'd with pangs of death,
Imbibes the gangrene's pestilential breath;
Th' experienc'd artist from the blood betrays
The latent venom, or its course delays:
But if th' infection triumphs o'er his art,
Tainting the vital stream that warms the heart,
Resolv'd at last, he quits th' unequal strife,
Severs the member, and preserves the life.

the ship must inevitably founder. By breaching too suddenly, she is threatened with losing all her masts and sails, or being immediately overturned; and, for want of sea-room, she is exposed to the dangers of being wrecked on a lee-shore.



THE
SHIPWRECK.

CANTO III.

ARGUMENT.

The design and influence of poetry—Applied to the subject—Wreck of the mizen-mast cleared away—Ship veers before the wind—Her violent agitation; Different stations of the officers—Appearance of the island of Falconera—Excursion to the adjacent nations of Greece, renowned in antiquity. Athens—Socrates—Plato—Aristides—Solon—Corinth—Sparta—Leonidas—Invasion of Xerxes—Lycurgus—Epaminondas—Modern appearance—Arcadia; Its former happiness and fertility—Present distress, the effect of slavery—Ithaca—Ulysses and Penelope—Argos and Mycenæ—Agamemnon—Macrinus—Lemnos—Vulcan and Venus—Delos—Apollo and Diana—Troy—Sestos, Leander, and Hero—Delphos—Temple of Apollo, Parnassus—The subject resumed—Sparkling of the sea—Prodigious tempest, accompanied with rain, hail, and meteors—Darkness, lightning and thunder—Approach of day—Discovery of land—The ship in great danger, passes the island of St. George—Turns her broadside to the shore—Her bowsprit, fore-mast, and main-top-mast carried away—She strikes a rock—Splits asunder—Fate of the crew.

The scene stretches from that part of the Archipelago which lies ten miles to the northward of Falconera, to Cape Colonna, in Attica—The time is about seven hours, being from one till eight in the morning.

WHEN in a barbarous age, with blood defil'd,
The human savage roam'd the gloomy wild;
When sullen ignorance her flag display'd,
And rapine and revenge her voice obey'd;

Sent from the shores of light the *Muses* came,
The dark and solitary race to tame.
'Twas theirs the lawless passions to controul,
And melt in tender sympathy the soul :
The heart from vice and error to reclaim,
And breathe in human breasts celestial flame.
The kindling spirit caught th' empyreal ray,
And glow'd congenial with the swelling lay.
Rous'd from the chaos of primeval night,
At once fair Truth and Reason sprung to light.—
When great *Mæonides*, in rapid song,
The thundering tide of battle rolls along,
Each ravish'd bosom feels the high alarms,
And all the burning pulses beat to arms.
From earth upborn, on *Pegasean* wings,
Far thro' the boundless realms of thought he springs ;
While distant poets, trembling as they view
His sunward flight, the dazzling track pursue.
But when his strings, with mournful magic, tell
What dire distress *Laertes'* son befel.
The strains, meand'ring thro' the maze of woe,
Bid sacred sympathy the heart o'erflow.
Thus, in old time, the *Muses'* heavenly breath
With vital force dissolv'd the chains of death :
Each bard in epic lays began to sing,
'Taught by the master of the vocal string.—
'Tis mine, alas ! through dangerous scenes to stray,
Far from the light of his unerring ray !
While, all unus'd the wayward path to tread,
Darkling I wander with prophetic dread.
To me in vain the bold *Mæonian* lyre
Awakes the numbers, fraught with living fire !—
Full oft indeed, that mournful harp of yore
Wept the sad wanderer lost upon the shore ;
But o'er that scene th' impatient numbers ran,
Subservient only to a nobler plan.
'Tis mine the unrival'd prospect to display,
And chain th' events in regular array.
Tho' hard the task to sing in varied strains,
While all unchang'd the tragic theme remains !

Thrice happy! might the secret powers of art
 Unlock the latent windings of the heart!
 Might the sad numbers draw compassion's tear
 For kindred-miseries, oft' beheld too near;
 For kindred-wretches, oft' in ruin cast
 On *Albion's* strand, beneath the wintry blast;
 For all the pangs, the complicated woe,
 Her bravest sons, her faithful sailors know!
 So pity, gushing o'er each *British* breast,
 Might sympathise with *Britain's* sons distressed:
 For this, my theme thro' mazes I pursue,
 Which nor *Mæonidas* nor *Maro* knew.

Awhile the mast, in ruins dragg'd behind,
 Balanc'd th' impression of the helm and wind:
 The wounded serpent agoniz'd with pain,
 Thus trails his mangled volume on the plain:
 But now, the wreck dissever'd from the rear,
 The long reluctant prow began to veer;
 And while around, before the wind it falls,
 Square all the yards *! th' attentive master calls—
 You, timoneers, her motion still attend!
 For on your steerage all our lives depend.
 So! steady †! meet her; watch the blast behind,
 And steer her right before the seas and wind!
 Starboard again! the watchful pilot cries;
 Starboard, th' obedient timoneer replies.
 Then to the left the ruling helm returns;
 The wheel § revolves; the ringing axle burns.
 The ship, no longer foundering by the lee,
 Bears on her side th' invasions of the sea:
 All-lonely o'er the desert waste she flies,
 Scourg'd on by furies, storm and bursting skies.

* To square the yards, in this place is meant to arrange them directly athwart the ship's length.

† Steady, is the order to steer the ship according to the line on which she advances at that instant, without deviating to the right or left thereof.

§ In all large ships the helm is managed by a wheel.

As when the masters of the lance assail,
In *Hyperborean* seas, the slumbering whale;
Soon as the *javelins* pierce his scaly hide,
With anguish stung, he cleaves the downward tide:
In vain he flies! no friendly respite found;
His life-blood gushes thro' th' inflaming wound:
The wounded bark, thus smarting with her pain,
Scuds from pursuing waves along the main;
While, dash'd apart by her dividing prow,
Like burning adamant the waters glow.
Her joints forget their firm elastic tone:
Her long keel trembles, and her timbers groan.
Upheav'd behind her, in tremendous height,
The billows frown, with fearful radiance bright!
Now shivering, o'er the top mast wave she rides,
While deep beneath th' enormous gulf divides.
Now, launching headlong down the horrid vale,
She hears no more the roaring of the gale;
'Till up the dreadful height again she flies,
Trembling beneath the current of the skies.
As that rebellious angel who from heaven,
To regions of eternal pain was driven;
When dreadful he forsook the *Stygian* shore,
The distant realms of *Eden* to explore;
Here, on sulphureous clouds sublime upheav'd,
With daring wing th' infernal air he cleav'd,
There in some hideous gulf descending prone,
Far in the rayless void of night was thrown:
Even so she scales the briny mountain's height,
Then down the black abyss precipitates her flight.
The masts, around whose tops the whirlwinds sing,
With long vibration round her axle swing.
To guide the wayward course amid the gloom,
The watchful pilots different posts assume.
Albert and *Rodmond*, station'd on the rear,
With warning voice direct each timoneer.
High on the prow the guard *Arion* keeps,
To shun the cruisers wandering o'er the deeps.
Where'er he moves *Palemon* still attends,
As if on him his only hope depends:

CANTO III. THE SHIPWRECK.

63

While *Rodmond*, fearful of some neighb'ring shore,
 Cries, ever and anon, Look out afore!——
 Four hours thus scudding on the tide she flew,
 When *Falconera's* rocky height they view,
 High o'er its summit, thro' the gloom of night,
 The glimmering watch-tower cast a mournful light.
 In dire amazement riveted they stand,
 And hear the breakers lash the rugged strand:
 But soon beyond this shore the vessel flies,
 Swift as the rapid eagle cleaves the skies,
 So from the fangs of her insatiate foe,
 O'er the broad champain scuds the trembling roe.
 That danger past, reflects a feeble joy;
 But soon returning fears their hope destroy.
 Thus, in th' *Atlantic*, oft' the sailor eyes,
 While melting in the reign of foster skies,
 Some *Alp* of ice, from polar regions blown,
 Hail the glad influence of a warmer zone:
 Its frozen cliffs attemper'd gales supply:
 In cooling stream th' aerial billows fly:
 Awhile deliver'd from the scorching heat,
 In gentler tides the feverish pulses beat.
 So, when their trembling vessel pass'd this isle,
 Such visionary joys the crew beguile:
 'Th' illusive meteors of a lifeless fire!
 Too soon they kindle, and too soon expire!
 Say, Memory! thou, from whose unerring tongue
 Instructive flows the animated song;
 What regions now the flying ship surround?
 Regions of old, thro' all the world renown'd;
 That, once the poet's theme, the Muse's boast,
 Now lie in ruins: in oblivion lost!
 Did they, whose sad distress these lays deplore.
 Unskill'd in *Grecian* or in *Roman* lore,
 Unconscious pass each famous circling shore?
 They did; for blasted in the barren shade,
 Here, all too soon, the buds of science fade:
 Sad ocean's genius, in untimely hour,
 Withers the bloom of every springing flower.
 Here fancy droops, while sullen cloud and storm
 The generous climate of the soul deform.

Then if, among the wandering naval train,
 One stripling exil'd from th' *Æonian* plain,
 Had e'er, entranc'd in fancy's soothing dream,
 Approach'd to taste the sweet *Castalian* stream,
 (Since those salubrious streams, with power divine,
 To purer sense th' attemper'd soul refine)
 His heart with liberal commerce here unblest,
 Alien to joy ! sincerer grief possess'd.
 Yet on the youthful mind th' impression cast
 Of ancient glory, shall for ever last.
 There, all unquench'd by cruel fortune's ire,
 It glows with unextinguishable fire.

Immortal *Athens* first, in ruin spread,
 Contiguous lies at Port *Lion's* head.
 Great source of science ! whose immortal name
 Stands foremost in the glorious roll of fame.
 Here Godlike *Socrates* and *Plato* shone,
 And, firm to truth, eternal honour won.
 The first in virtue's cause his life resign'd,
 By Heav'n pronounc'd the wisest of mankind :
 The last foretold the spark of vital fire,
 The soul's pure essence, never could expire.
 Here *Solon* dwelt, the philosophic sage,
 That fled *Pisistratus'* vindictive rage.
 Just *Aristides* here maintain'd the cause,
 Whose sacred precepts shine thro' *Solon's* laws.
 Of all her towering structures, now alone
 Some scatter'd columns stand, with weeds o'ergrown,
 The wandering stranger, near the port descries
 A milk-white lion of stupendous size ;
 Unknown the sculptor, marble is the frame :
 And hence th' adjacent haven drew its name.

Next, in the Gulf of *Engia*, *Corinth* lies,
 Whose gorgeous fabrics seem'd to strike the skies ;
 Whom, tho' by tyrant victors oft' subdu'd,
Greece, *Egypt*, *Rome*, with awful wonder view'd,
 Her name, for *Pallas'* heavenly art renown'd *,
 Spread like the foliage which her pillars crown'd.

* *Architecture.*

But now, in fatal desolation laid,
Oblivion o'er it, draws a dismal shade.

Then further westward on *Morea's* land,
Fair *Mistira*! thy modern turrets stand.
Ah! who, unmov'd with sacred woe, can tell
That here great *Lacedæmon's* glory fell?
Here once she flourished, at whose trumpet's sound
War burst his chains and nations shook around.
Here brave *Leonidas* from shore to shore
'Thro' all *Achaia* bade her thunders roar:
He, when imperial *Xerxes* from afar,
Advanc'd with *Persia's* sumless troops to war,
Till *Macedonia* shrunk beneath his spear,
And *Greece* dismay'd, beheld the chief draw near:
He, at *Thermopylae's* immortal plain,
His force repell'd with *Sparta's* glorious train.
Tall *Oeta* saw, the tyrant's conquer'd bands,
In gasping millions, bleed on hostile lands.
Thus vanquish'd *Asia* trembling heard thy name,
And *Thebes* and *Athens* sicken'd at thy fame!
Thy state, supported by *Lycurgus's* laws,
Drew, like thine arms, superlative applause.
E'en great *Epaminondas* strove in vain
To curb that spirit with a *Theban* chain.
But ah! how low her free-born spirit now!
Her abject sons to haughty tyrants bow;
A false, degenerate, superstitious race
Infest thy region, and thy name disgrace!

Not distant far, *Arcadia's* blest domains
Peloponnesus's circling shore contains.
Thrice happy soil? where still serenely gay,
Indulgent *Flora* breath'd perpetual *May*;
Where buxom *Ceres* taught the obsequious field,
Rich without art, spontaneous gifts to yield.
Then with some rural nymph completely blest,
While transport glow'd in each enamour'd breast,
Each faithful shepherd told his tender pain,
And sung of sylvan sports in artless strain,
Now, sad reverse! Oppression's iron hand
Enslaves her natives, and despoils the land.

In lawless rapine bred, a sanguine train
With midnight ravage scour th' uncultur'd plain.

Westward of these, beyond the Isthmus, lies
The long lost isle of *Ithacus* the wise;
Where fair *Penelope* her absent lord
Full twice ten years with faithful love deplor'd
Tho' many a princely heart her beauty won,
She, guarded only by her stripling son,
Each bold attempt of suitor-kings repell'd,
And undefil'd the nuptial contract held.
With various arts to win her love they toil'd,
But all their wiles by virtuous fraud she foil'd.
True to her vows, and resolutely chaste
The beauteous princess triumph'd at the last.

Argos, in Greece forgotten and unknown,
Still seems her cruel fortune to bemoan;
Argos, whose monarch led the Grecian hosts,
Far o'er th' *Ægian* main to *Dardan* coasts.
Unhappy prince! who, on a hostile shore,
Toil, peril, anguish, ten long winters bore.
And when to native realms restor'd at last,
To reap the harvest of thy labours past.
A perjur'd friend, alas! and faithless wife,
There sacrific'd to impious lust thy life!—
Fast by *Arcadia* stretch these desert plains,
And o'er the land a gloomy tyrant reigns.

Next the fair isle of *Helena* * is seen,
Where adverse winds detain'd the *Spartan* queen;
For whom in arms combin'd the Grecian hosts,
With vengeance fir'd, invaded *Phrygia's* coast;
For whom so long they labour'd to destroy
The sacred turrets of imperial *Troy*.
Here, driven by *Juno's* rage, the hapless dame,
Forlorn of heart, from ruin'd *Ilion* came,
The port an image bears of *Parian* stone,
Of ancient fabric, but of date unknown.

Due east from this appears th' immortal shore
That sacred *Phæbus* and *Diana* bore:

* Now known by the name of *Macrenisi*.

Delos, thro' all the *Ægian* seas renown'd !
(Whose coast the rocky *Cyclades* furround)
By *Phœbus* honour'd, and by *Greece* rever'd ;
Her hallow'd groves, even distant *Persia* fear'd.
But now a silent unfrequented land !
No human footstep marks the trackless sand.
Thence to the north, by *Asia's* western bound,
Fair *Lemnos* stands, with rising marble crown'd ;
Where, in her rage, avenging *Juno* hurl'd
Ill fated *Vulcan* from the ethereal world.
There his eternal anvils first he rear'd ;
Then, forg'd by *Cyclopean* art, appear'd
Thunders that shook the skies with dire alarms,
And, form'd by skill divine, *Vulcanian* arms.
There with this cripple wretch, the foul disgrace
And living scandal of the empyreal race,
The beauteous queen of love in wedlock dwelt,
In fires profane can heavenly bosoms melt ?

Eastward of this appears the *Dardan* shore,
That once the imperial towers of *Ilium* bore.
Illustrious *Troy* ! renown'd in every clime,
Through the long annals of unfolding time !
How oft thy royal bulwarks to defend,
Thou saw'st thy tutelar gods in vain descend !
Tho' chiefs unnumber'd in her cause were slain,
Tho' nations perish'd on her bloody plain,
That refuge of perfidious *Helen's* flame
Was doom'd at length to sink in *Grecian* flame :
And now, by time's deep plow-share hallow'd o'er,
The seat of sacred *Troy* is found no more.
No trace of all her glories now remains ;
But corn and vines enrich her cultur'd plains.
Silver *Scamander* laves the verdant shore ;
Scamander oft o'erflow'd with hostile gore.

Not far remov'd from *Ilion's* famous land,
In counter view appears the *Thracian* strand ;
Where beauteous *Hero* from the turret's height,
Display'd her crescent each revolving night ;
Whose gleam directed lov'd *Leander* o'er
The rolling *Hellepont* to *Asia's* shore ;

THE SHIPWRECK.

CANTO III.

'Till, in a fated hour, on *Thracia's* coast
She saw her lover's lifeless body tost :
Then felt her bosom agony severe ;
Her eyes sad-gazing pour'd th' incessant tear ;
O'erwhelm'd with anguish, frantic with despair,
She beat her beauteous breast, and tore her hair—
On dear *Leander's* name in vain she cry'd ;
Then headlong plung'd into the parting tide.
The parting tide receiv'd the lovely weight,
And proudly flow'd, exulting in its freight !

Far west of *Thrace*, beyond the *Ægian* main,
Remote from ocean, lies the *Delphic* plain.
The sacred oracle of *Phæbus* there
High o'er the mount arose, divinely fair !
Achaian marble form'd the gorgeous pile :
August the fabric ! elegant its stile !
On brazen hinges turn'd the silver doors,
And checquer'd marble pav'd the polish'd floors.
The roofs, where storied tablatures appear'd,
On columns of *Corinthian* mould were rear'd :
Of shining porphyry the shafts were fram'd,
And round the hollow doom bright jewels flam'd.
Apollo's suppliant priests, a blameless train !
Fram'd their oblations on the holy fane :
To front the sun's declining ray 'twas plac'd :
With golden harps and living laurels grac'd.
The sciences and arts around the shrine
Conspicuous shone, engrav'd by hands divine !
Here *Æsculap'us'* snake display'd his crest,
And burning glories sparkled on his breast :
While from his eye's insufferable light
Disease and death recoil'd in headlong flight.
Of this great temple, thro' all time renown'd,
Sunk in oblivion no remains are found.

Contiguous here, with hallow'd woods o'erspread,
Parnassus lifts to heaven its honour'd head :
Where, from the deluge sav'd by Heaven's command,
Deucalion leading *Pyrrha* hand in hand,
Repeopled all the desolated land.

Around the scene unfading laurels grow,
 And aromatic flowers for ever blow.
 The winged choirs, on every tree above,
 Carol sweet numbers through the vocal grove ;
 While o'er th' eternal spring that smiles beneath,
 Young *Zephyrs* borne on rosy pinions breathe.
 Fair daughters of the sun ! the sacred Nine,
 Here wake to ecstasy their songs divine ;
 Or crown'd with myrtle, in some sweet alcove
 Attune the tender strings to bleeding love.
 All sadly sweet the balmy currents roll,
 Soothing to softest peace the tortur'd soul.
 While hill and vale with choral voice around
 The music of immortal harps resound,
 Fair Pleasure leads in dance the happy hours,
 Still scattering where she moves *Elysian* flowers !—

Even now the strains with sweet contagion fraught,
 Shed a delicious languor o'er the thought—
 Adieu ye vales, that smiling peace bestow,
 Where *Eden's* blossoms ever-vernal blow !
 Adieu ye streams, that o'er enchanted ground
 In lucid maze th' *Aonian* hill surround !
 Ye fairy scenes where fancy loves to dwell,
 And young Delight, for ever, oh, farewell !
 The soul with tender luxury you fill,
 And o'er the sense *Lethæan* dews distill !
 Awake, O Memory, from th' inglorious dream !
 With brazen lungs resume the kindling theme ?
 Collect thy powers ! arouse thy vital fire !
 Ye spirits of the storm, my verse inspire !
 Hoarse as the whirlwinds that enrage the main,
 In torrents pour along the swelling strain !

Now borne impetuous o'er the boiling deeps,
 Her course to *Attic* shores the vessel keeps :
 The pilots, as the waves behind her swell,
 Still with the wheeling stern their force repel.
 For this assault should either quarter * feel,
 Again to flank the tempest she might reel,

* *The quarter is the hinder part of a ship's side, or the part which is near the stern.*

The steerfmen every bidden turn apply ;
To right and left the spokes alternate fly.
Thus when some conquer'd host retreats in fear,
The bravest leaders guard the broken rear ;
Indignant they retire, and long oppose
Superior armies that around them close ;
Still shield the flanks ; the routed squadrons joins ;
And guide the flight in one embodied line :
So they direct the flying bark before
Th' impelling floods that lash her to the shore.
As some benighted traveller thro' the shade,
Explore the devious path with heart dismay'd ;
While prowling savages behind him roar,
And yawing pits and quagmires lurk before—
High o'er the poop, th' audacious seas aspire,
Uproll'd in hills of fluctuating fire.
As some fell conqueror frantic with success,
Sheds o'er the nations ruin and distress ;
So, while the wat'ry wilderness he roams,
Incens'd to seven fold rage the tempest foams ;
And o'er the trembling pines, above, below,
Shrill through the cordage howls, with notes of woe.
Now thunders, wafted from the burning zone,
Growl from afar, a deaf and hollow groan !
The ship's high battlements, to either side
For ever rocking, drink the briny tide :
Her joints unhing'd, in palsied languors play,
As ice dissolves beneath the noon tide ray.
The skies asunder torn, a deluge pour ;
Th' impetuous hail descends in whirling shower.
High on the masts, with pale and livid rays,
Amid the gloom portentous meteors blaze
Th' ætherial doom, in mournful pomp array'd,
Now lurks behind impenetrable shade ;
Now flashing round intolerable light.
Redoubles all the terrors of the night,
Such terror *Sinai's* quaking hill o'erspread,
When Heaven's loud trumpet sounded o'er his head.
It seem'd the wrathful angel of the wind
Had all the horrors of the skies combin'd ;

And here, to one ill-fated ship oppos'd,
At once the dreadful magazine disclos'd.
And lo ! tremendous o'er the deep he springs,
Th' inflaming sulphur flathing from his wings !
Hark ! his strong voice the dismal silence break ;
Mad Chaos from the chains of death awakes !
Loud and more loud the rolling peals enlarge,
And blue on deck their rolling sides discharge :
There, all aghast, the shivering wretches stood,
While chill suspense and fear congeal'd their blood.
Now in a deluge bursts the living flame,
And dread concussion rends th' ætherial frame :
Sick earth convulsive groans from shore to shore,
And nature shuddering feels the horrid roar.

Still the sad prospect rises on my sight,
Reveal'd in all its mournful shade and light.
Swift thro' my pulses glides the kindling fire,
As lightning glances on th' electric wire.
But ah ! the force of numbers strives in vain
The glowing scene unequal to sustain.

But lo ! at last, from tenfold darkness torn,
Forth issues o'er the wave the weeping morn.
Hail ! sacred vision ! who, on orient wing,
The cheerful dawn of light propitious bring !
All nature smiling hail'd the vivid ray,
That gave her beauties to returning day :
All but our ship, that, groaning on the tide,
No kind relief, no gleam of hope descri'd.
For now, in front, her trembling inmates see
The hills of *Greece* emerging on the lee.
So the lost lover views that fatal morn,
On which, forever from his bosom torn,
The nymph ador'd resigns her blooming charms,
To bless with love some happier rival's arms,
So to *Eliza* dawn'd that cruel day,
That tore *Aeneas* from her arms away ;
That saw him parting, never to return,
Herself in funeral flames decreed to burn.
O yet in clouds, thou genial source of light,
Conceal thy radiant glories from our sight !

Go with thy smile adorn the happy plain,
And gild the scenes where health and pleasure reign;
But let not here, in scorn thy wanton beam
Insult the dreadful grandeur of my theme!

While shoreward now the bounding vessel flies,
Full in her van *St. George's* cliffs arise:
High o'er the rest a pointed crag is seen,
That hung projecting o'er a mossy green.
Nearer and nearer now the danger grows,
And all their skill relentless fate oppose.
For, while more eastward they direct the prow,
Enormous waves the quivering deck o'erflow.
While, as she wheels, unable to subdue
Her fallies, still they dread her broaching-too*,
Alarming thought! for now no more a-lee
Her riven side could bear th' invading sea;
And if the following surge she scuds before,
Headlong she runs upon the dreadful shore;
A shore where shelves and hidden rocks abound.
Where death in secret ambush lurks around.
Far less dismay'd, *Anchises* wandering son
Was seen the Straits of *Sicily* to shun:
When *Palinurus*, from the helm, descry'd
The rocks of *Scylla* on his eastern side;
While in the west, with hideous yawn disclos'd,
His onward path *Charybdis*' gulph oppos'd.
The double danger as by turns he view'd,
His wheeling bark her arduous track pursu'd.
Thus, while to right and left destruction lies,
Between the extremes the daring vessel flies.
With boundless involution bursting o'er
The marble cliffs, loud dashing surges roar.

* *Broaching-too*, is a sudden and involuntary movement in navigation, wherein a ship, whilst scudding or sailing before the wind, unexpectedly turns her side to windward. It is generally occasioned by the difficulty of steering her, or by some disaster happening to the machinery of the helm. See the last note of the second Canto.

Hoarse thro' each winding creek the tempest raves,
And hollow rocks repeat the groan of waves.
Destruction round the insatiate coast prepares.
To crush the trembling ship, unnumber'd snares
But haply now she 'scapes the fatal strand,
Tho' scarce ten fathoms distant from the land.
Swift as the weapon issuing from the bow,
She cleaves the burning waters with her prow;
And forward leaping with tumultuous haste,
As on the tempest's wing, the isle she past.
With longing eyes and agony of mind,
The sailors view this refuge left behind;
Happy to bribe with *India's* richest ore,
A safe accession to that barren shore!

When in the dark *Peruvian* mine confin'd,
Lost to the cheerful commerce of mankind,
The groaning captive wastes his life away,
For ever exil'd from the realms of day;
Not equal pangs his bosom agonize,
When far above the sacred light he eyes;
While, all forlorn, the victim pines in vain
For scenes he never shall possess again.

But now *Athenian* mountains they descry,
And o'er the surge *Colonna* frowns on high.
Beside the cape's projecting verge is plac'd
A range of columns, long by time defac'd;
First planted by devotion to sustain,
In elder times, *Tritonia's* sacred fane.
Foams the wild beech below with mad'ning rage,
Where waves and rocks a dreadful combat wage.
The sickly heaven, fermenting with its freight,
Still vomits o'er the main the feverish weight:
And now, while wing'd with ruin from on high,
Thro' the rent cloud the raging lightning fly,
A flash, quick-glancing on the nerves of light,
Struck the pale helmsman with eternal night:
Redmond, who heard a piteous groan behind,
Touch'd with compassion gaz'd upon the blind;
And, while around his sad companions croud,
He guides th' unhappy victim to the shroud.

Hie the aloft, my gallant friend! he cries;
Thy only succour on the mast relies!—
The helm, bereft of half its vital force,
Now scarce subdu'd the wild unbridled course.
Quick to th' abandon'd wheel *Arion* came,
The ship's tempestuous fallies to reclaim:
Amaz'd he saw her, o'er the founding foam
Upborn, to right and left distracted roam.
So gaz'd young *Phaeton*, with pale dismay,
When mounted in the flaming car of day.
With rash and impious hand, the stripling try'd
Th' immortal courfers of the sun to guide.—
The vessel, while the dread event draws nigh,
Seems more impatient o'er the waves to fly:
Fate spurs her on. 'I thus issuing from afar,
Advances to the sun some blazing star:
And, as it feels th' attraction's kindling force,
Springs onward with accelerated course.

With mournful look the seamen ey'd the strand,
Where death's inexorable jaws expand.
Swift from their minds elaps'd all dangers past,
As, dumb with terror, they beheld the last.
Now, on the trembling shrouds, before, behind,
In mute suspense they mount into the wind.
The Genius of the deep, on rapid wing,
The black eventful moment seem'd to bring.
The fatal Sisters, on the surge before,
Yok'd their infernal horses to the prore.
The steersman now receiv'd their last command
To wheel the vessel sidelong to the strand;
Twelve sailors, on the foremast who depend,
High on the platform of the top ascend;
Fatal retreat! for while the plunging prow
Immerges headlong in the wave below,
Down prest by wat'ry weight the bowsprit bends,
And from above the stem deep crashing rends.
Beneath her beak the floating ruins lie;
The foremast totters, unsustain'd on high:
And now the ship, forelifted by the sea,
Hurls the tall fabric backward o'er her lee;

While, in the general wreck, the faithful stay
Drags the main-top-mast from its post away.
Flung from the mast, the seamen strive in vain
Thro' hostile floods their vessel to regain.
The waves they buffet, till bereft of strength,
O'erpower'd they yield to cruel fate at length,
'The hostile waters close around their head ;
They sink for ever, number'd with the dead !

Those who remain their fearful doom await,
No longer mourn their lost companions' fate.
'The heart that bleeds with sorrows all its own,
Forgets the pangs of friendship to bemoan.—

Albert and Rodmond and Palamon here,
With young *Arion* on the mast appear ;
Even they, amid th' unspeakable distress,
In every look distracting thoughts confess ;
In every vein the reffluent blood congeals.
And every bosom fated terror feels.
Inclos'd with all the demons of the main,
They view'd th' adjacent shore, but view'd in vain.
Such torments in the drear abodes of hell,
Which sad despair laments with rueful yell,
Such torments agonize the damned breast,
While fancy views the mansions of the blest.
For Heaven's sweet help their suppliant cries implore ;
But Heaven, relentless, deigns to help no more !

And now lash'd on by destiny severe,
With horror fraught, the dreadful scene drew near !
The ship hangs hovering on the verge of death,
Hell yawns, rocks rise, and breakers roar beneath.
In vain, alas ! the sacred shades of yore
Would arm the mind with philosophic lore ;
In vain they'd teach us, at the latest breath,
To smile serene amid the pangs of death.
Ev'n *Zeno's* self, and *Epictetus* old,
This fell abyss had shudder'd to behold.
Had *Socrates*, for godlike virtue fam'd,
And wisest of the sons of men proclaim'd,
Beheld this scene of phrenzy and distress,
His soul had trembled to its last recess !

O yet confirm my heart, ye powers above,
This last tremendous shock of fate to prove,
The tottering frame of reason yet sustain!
Nor let this total ruin whirl my brain!

In vain the cords and axes were prepar'd,
For now th' audacious seas insult the yard;
High o'er the ship they throw a horrid shade,
And o'er her burst in terrible cascade.
Uplifted on the surge, to heaven she flies,
Her shatter'd top half buried in the skies;
Then headlong plunging thunders on the ground,
Earth groans! air trembles! and the deeps resound!
Her giant bulk the dread concussion feels,
And quivering with the wound, in torment reels.
So reels convuls'd with agonizing throws,
The bleeding bull beneath the murd'rer's blows.—
Again she plunges! hark! a second shock
Tears her strong bottom on the marble rock!
Down on the vale of death, with dismal cries,
The fated victims shuddering roll their eyes
In wild despair; while yet another stroke,
With deep convulsion, rends the solid oak:
Till like the mine, in whose infernal cell
The lurking demons of destruction dwell,
At length asunder torn her frame divides,
And crashing spreads in ruin o'er the tides.

O were it mine with tuneful *Maro's* art
To wake to sympathy the feeling heart;
Like him the smooth and mournful verse to dress
In all the pomp of exquisite distress!
Then too, severely taught by cruel fate
To share in all the perils I relate,
Then might I with unrival strains deplore
Th' impervious horrors of a leeward shore.
As o'er the surge the stooping main-mast hung,
Still on the rigging thirty seamen clung:
Some, struggling, on a broken crag were cast,
And there by oozy tangles grappled fast:
A while they bore th' o'erwhelming billows rage,
Unequal combat with their fate to wage;

Till all benumb'd and feeble they forego
Their slippery hold, and sink to shades below.
Some, from the main-yard arm impetuous thrown
On marble ridges, die without a groan.
Three with *Palemon* on their skill depend,
And from the wreck on oars and rafts descend.
Now on the mountain-wave on high they ride,
Then downward plunge beneath th' involving tide ;
Till one who seems in agony to strive,
The whirling breakers heave on shore alive ;
The rest a speedier end of anguish knew.
And prest the stony beach, a lifeless crew !

Next, O unhappy chief ! th' eternal doom
Of Heaven decreed thee to the briny tomb ;
What scenes of misery torment thy view !
What painful struggles of thy dying crew !
Thy perish'd hopes all buried in the flood,
O'erspread with corse, red with human blood !
So pierc'd with anguish hoary *Priam* gaz'd,
When *Troy's* imperial domes in ruin blaz'd,
While he, severest sorrow doom'd to feel,
Expir'd beneath the victor's murdering steel.
Thus with his helpless partners till the last,
Sad refuge ! *Albert* hugs the floating mast :
His soul could yet sustain the mortal blow,
But droops, alas ! beneath superior woe ;
For now soft nature's sympathetic chain
Tugs at his yearning heart with powerful strain ;
His faithful wife for ever doom'd to mourn
For him, alas ! who never shall return ;
To black adversity's approach expos'd,
With want and hardships unforeseen enclos'd ;
His lovely daughter left without a friend
Her innocence to succour and defend ;
By youth and indigence set forth a prey
To lawless guilt that flatters to betray—
While these reflections rack his feeling mind,
Rodmond, who hung beside, his grasp resign'd ;
And, as the tumbling water's o'er him roll'd,
His out-stretch'd arms the master's legs enfold.—

Sad *Albert* feels the dissolution near,
 And strives in vain his fetter'd limbs to clear;
 For death bids every clinching joint adhere. }
 All faint, to Heaven he throws his dying eyes,
 And "O protect my wife and child!" he cries:
 'The gushing streams roll back th' unfinish'd sound!
 He gasps! he dies! and tumbles to the ground!

Five only left of all the perish'd throng.
 Yet ride the pine which shoreward drives along;
 With these *Arion* still his hold secures,
 And all th' assaults of hostile waves endures.
 O'er the dire prospect as for life he strives,
 He looks if poor *Palemon* yet survives.
 Ah wherefore, trusting to unequal art,
 Didst thou incautious from the wreck depart?
 Alas! these rocks all human skill defy,
 Who strikes them once, beyond relief must die:
 And now, sore wounded, thou perhaps art tost.
 On these, or in some oozy cavern lost.
 Thus thought *Arion*, anxious gazing round.
 In vain, his eyes no more *Palemon* found.
 The demons of destruction hover nigh,
 And thick their mortal shafts commission'd fly.
 And now a breaking surge with forceful sway,
 Two next *Arion* furious tears away.
 Hurl'd on the crags, behold, they gasp! they bleed!
 And, groaning, cling upon th' illusive weed!
 Another billow bursts in boundless roar!
Arion sinks! and memory views no more!
 Ah! total night and horror here preside!
 My stunn'd ear tingles to the whizzing tide!
 It is the funeral knell! and, gliding near,
 Methinks the phantoms of the dead appear!
 But lo! emerging from the watery grave,
 Again they float incumbent on the wave;
 Again the dismal prospect opens round,
 The wreck, the shores, the dying, and the drown'd!
 And see! enfeebled by repeated shocks,
 'Those two who scramble on th' adjacent rock;

Their faithless hold no longer can retain,
They sink o'erwhelm'd, and never rise again!
Two with *Arion* yet the mast upbore,
That now above the ridges reach'd the shore:
Sill trembling to descend, they downward gaze,
With horror pale, and torpid with amaze:
The floods recoil! the ground appears below!
And life's faint embers now rekindling glow:
A while they wait th' exhausted wave's retreat,
Then climb flow up the beach with hands and feet.
O Heav'n! deliver'd by whose sovereign hand,
Still on the brink of hell they shuddering stand,
Receive the languid incense they bestow,
That damp with death appears not yet to glow,
To thee each soul the warm oblation pays,
With trembling ardour, of unequal praise;
In every heart dismay with wonder strives,
And hope the sicken'd spark of life revives:
Her magic powers their exil'd health restore,
Till horror and despair are felt no more.

A troop of *Grecians* who inhabit nigh,
And oft' these perils of the deep descry,
Rous'd by the blustering tempest of the night,
Anxious had climb'd *Colonna's* neighbouring height;
When gazing downward on th' adjacent flood,
Full to their view the scene of ruin stood;
The surf with mangled bodies strew'd around,
And those yet breathing on the sea-wash'd ground!
Tho' lost to science and the nobler arts,
Yet nature's lore inform'd their feeling hearts;
Strait down the vale with hast'ning steps they hied,
Th' unhappy sufferers to assist and guide.

Mean while those three escap'd beneath explore
The first advent'rous youth who reach'd the shore
Panting, with eyes averted from the day,
Prone, helpless, on the tangly beach he lay—
It is *Palemon*:—oh! what tumults roll
With hope and terror in *Arion's* soul!
If yet unhurt he lives again to view
His friend, and this sole remnant of our crew!

With us to travel thro' this foreign zone,
 And share the future good and ill unknown.
Arion thus; but ah! sad doom of fate;
 That bleeding Memory sorrows to relate,
 While yet afloat on some resisting rock,
 His ribs were dash'd, and fractur'd with the shock
 Heart-piercing sight! those cheeks so late array'd
 In beauty's bloom, are pale with mortal shade!
 Distilling blood his lovely breast o'erspread,
 And clogg'd the golden tresses of his head!
 Nor yet the lungs by this pernicious stroke
 Were wounded, or the vocal organs broke.
 Down from his neck, with blazing gems array'd,
 Thy image, lovely *Anna*! hung portray'd;
 Th' unconscious figure smiling all serene,
 Suspended in a golden chain was seen.
 Had'st thou, soft maiden! in this hour of woe,
 Beheld him writhing from the deadly blow,
 What force of art, what language could express
 Thine agony? thine exquisite distress?
 But thou alas! art doom'd to weep in vain
 For him thine eyes shall never see again!
 With dumb amazement pale, *Arion* gaz'd,
 And cautiously the wounded youth uprais'd;
Palemon then, with cruel pangs oppress'd,
 In faltering accents thus his friend address'd:
 "O rescu'd from destruction late so nigh,
 Beneath whose fatal influence doom'd I lie;
 Are we then exil'd to this last retreat
 Of life, unhappy! thus decreed to meet?
 Ah! how unlike what yester-morn enjoy'd,
 Enchanting hopes, for ever now destroy'd!
 For wounded far beyond all healing power,
Palemon dies, and this his final hour,
 By those fell breakers, where in vain I strove,
 At once cut off from fortune, life and love!
 Far other scenes must soon present my sight,
 That lie deep-buried yet in tenfold night.
 Ah! wretched father of a wretched son,
 Whom thy paternal prudence has undone!

How will remembrance of this blinded care
Bend down thy head with anguish and despair !
Such dire effects from avarice arise,
That, deaf to nature's voice, and vainly wise,
With force severe endeavours to controul
The noblest passions that inspire the soul.
But O, thou sacred Pow'r! whose law connects
Th' eternal chain of causes and effects,
Let not thy chafening ministers of rage
Afflict with sharp remorse his feeble age !
And you, *Aricn*! who with these the last
Of all our crew survive the shipwreck past—
Ah! cease to mourn! those friendly tears restrain!
Nor give my dying moments keener pain!
Since heaven may soon thy wandering steps restore,
When parted hence, to England's distant shore :
Shouldst thou, th' unwilling messenger of fate,
To him the tragic story first relate,
Oh! Friendship's generous ardor then suppress!
Nor hint the fatal cause of my distress:
Nor let each horrid incident sustain
The lengthen'd tale to aggravate his pain.
Ah! then remember well my last request
For her who reigns for ever in my breast;
Yet let him prove a father and a friend,
The helpless maid to succour and defend.
Say, I this suit implor'd with parting breath,
So Heaven befriend him at his hour of death!
But oh! to lovely *Anna* should'st thou tell
What dire untimely end thy friend besel,
Draw o'er the dismal scene soft pity's veil,
And lightly touch the lamentable tale;
Say that my love, inviolably true,
No change, no diminution ever knew;
Lo! her bright image, pendent on my neck,
Is all *Palemon* rescu'd from the wreck;
Take it and say, when panting in the wave,
I struggled, life and this alone to save!

“ My soul that fluttering hastens to be free,
Would yet a train of thoughts impart to thee,

But strives in vain!—the chilling ice of death
 Congeals my blood, and choaks the stream of breath :
 Resign'd she quits her comfortless abode,
 To course that long, unknown, eternal road.—
 O sacred Source of everliving light !
 Conduct the weary wanderer in her flight !
 Direct her onward to that peaceful shore,
 Where peril, pain and death are felt no more !

“ When thou some tale of hapless love shalt hear,
 That steals from pity's eye the melting tear,
 Of two chaste hearts, by mutual passion join'd,
 To absence, sorrow and despair consign'd,
 Oh ! then, to swell the tides of social woe,
 That heal th' afflicted breast they o'erflow,
 While memory dictates, this sad Shipwreck tell,
 And what distress thy wretched friend beset !
 Then, while in streams of soft compassion drown'd,
 The swains lament, and maidens weep around ;
 While lisping children, touch'd with infant fear,
 With wonder gaze, and drop th' unconscious tear ;
 Oh ! then this moral bid their souls retain,
 “ All thoughts of happiness on earth are vain*.”

The last faint accents trembled on his tongue
 That now inactive to the palate clung ;
 His bosom heaves a mortal groan—he dies !
 And shades eternal sink upon his eyes !

As thus defac'd in death *Palemon* lay,
Arion gaz'd upon the lifeless clay ;
 Transfix'd he stood, with awful terror fill'd,
 While down his cheek the silent drops distill'd.

Oh, ill star'd vot'ry of unspotted truth !
 Untimely perish'd in the bloom of youth,
 Should e'er thy friend arrive on *Albion's* land,
 He will obey, tho' painful, thy demand :

*———*sed scilicet ultima semper
 Expectanda dies homini ; “ decique beatus
 Ante obitum nemo supremæque funera debet.”*

Ovid. Metam. lib. 3.

His tongue the dreadful story shall display,
And all the horrors of this dismal day !
Disastrous day ! what ruin hast thou bred !
What anguish to the living and the dead !
How hast thou left the widow all forlorn,
And ever doom'd the orphan child to mourn ;
Thro' life's sad journey hopeless to complain !
Can sacred justice those events ordain ?
But, O my soul ! avoid that wond'rous maze,
Where reason, lost in endless error, strays !
As thro' this thorny vale of life we run,
Great Cause of all Effects, " Thy will be done ! "

Now had the *Grecians* on the beach arriv'd,
To aid the helpless few who yet surviv'd :
While passing they beheld the waves o'erspread
With shatter'd rafts and corsees of the dead,
Three still alive, benumb'd and faint they find,
In mournful silence on a rock reclin'd.
The generous natives, mov'd with social pain,
The feeble strangers in their arms sustain ;
With pitying sighs their hapless lot deplore,
And lead them trembling from the fatal shore.

F I N I S.

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